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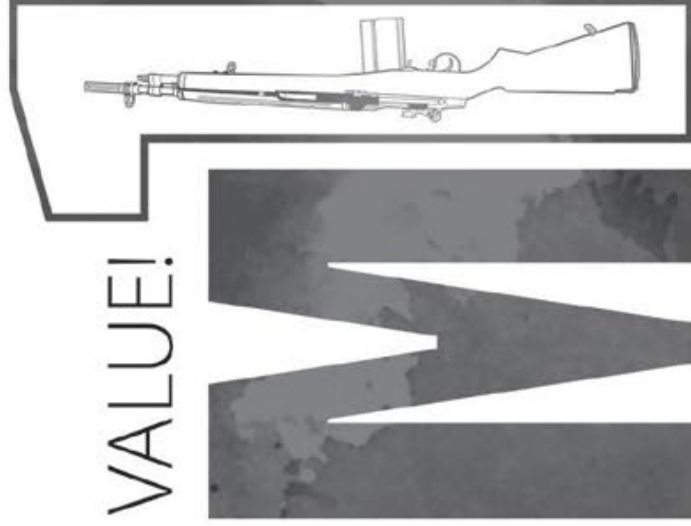


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► **DON'T BE A VICTIM!**



IT HAPPENED TO ME!

MOM BUSTS HOME INVADER

One night, I was home alone with my baby. My husband works nights and this was normal for me. We lived in a development in the Midwest where the homes were small and close together. As with most mothers, every night I had a routine with my baby. On this particular night, after the bath, we called my mother so she could talk to the baby. During the conversation, I heard something that wasn't quiet right.

Since I grew up with guns, we always had one available in our home. It was usually a 9mm, which I practiced with as often as I could. On this particular night, as we were talking to grandma, the sound that I heard was breaking glass. I immediately knew this wasn't right and told my mother to call 911 since I thought someone was in the house. My mother smartly kept me on the line as she called 911 from another phone, and I listened as she gave them my address and situation. As she was talking to 911, I retrieved the 9mm from the locked box where we kept it and took up a position inside my bedroom where I could see the door.

I was too afraid to run over and close the door to my bedroom, so I cradled my baby and aimed. Before I knew it, a shadow

came up the stairs, and in a flash a strange man bolted through the doorway and lunged toward us. I shot the intruder and he fell to the floor, screamed in pain and then all was quiet. I called 911 and screamed at the operator to get the police there and that I had shot an intruder. The intruder turned out to be a known burglar who had been wanted for some time. Thankfully, the police said, it was a good shoot and I had acted the right way. To me, the most important thing was that I kept my baby and me safe, and perhaps some other family down the road. —DM, PA

FACE-OFF WITH AN ARMED ROBBER

On my way home from work, I got a call from home and was asked to stop to pick up some milk and bread. In an effort to not forget my new task, I pulled into the first convenience store I saw. As I found my groceries and went to the counter to pay, a guy walked into the store and started yelling and waving a large handgun.

It took me a moment to realize what was happening, as the initial shock had me in disbelief. Other customers made for the exit, but there I stood, frozen in the moment, as a dangerous man walked toward the register. Once there, he started yelling at us with what seemed to be incoherent language. In truth, my mind was on overdrive and I couldn't understand what he was saying through the fog of the moment. As he yelled and I didn't move, he became more agitated and stuck his gun in my face and said, "Move."

As the clerk and I started to move, as if on autopilot, we headed to the back of the store. My mind started going over what I did wrong to be here and thoughts of my family. As my mind raced, my hand drifted down towards my right side and felt a bump.

For some fun a few years back I brought my son to a shooting range. After all the preliminaries of how to hold the gun, gun safety and how to shoot, I fired a gun for the first time in my life. The instant that first round left the chamber, I was hooked. One thing led to another and, in short order, I obtained my carry permit and a gun. Like my wallet and car keys, I made it a habit to carry my Ruger LCP to and from work. Since it had essentially become a part of me, I had actually forgotten it was there. As we were being forced to the back of the store, something



A well-trained mother defended her child from a home invader with a 9mm.

STRAIGHT 8 PHOTO



“When he turned back toward us with his gun aimed at us, I yelled, ‘Stop or I’ll shoot!’”

started to stir in me. I wasn’t sure if it was fear or anger, but whatever it was, I wasn’t going to let this criminal do whatever he was going to do with us.

As the suspect walked behind us, still incoherently ranting, my hand drifted up under my jacket to my Ruger, and I grabbed the butt end and slowly pulled it from its holster, until the gun was firmly seated in my hand.

I was in between the criminal and the clerk, and as we walked the criminal kept looking behind him—to make sure no one was coming into the store or following us. In my mind, I timed his turns so that the next time he turned, I would quickly be able to fully draw my handgun from its concealment holster.

When he turned back toward us with his gun aimed at us, I yelled, “Stop or I’ll shoot!” He didn’t stop and I did shoot. The criminal slumped forward and fell to the ground. As he did, I yelled at the clerk to call the police and kept my Ruger trained on the robber. In a few short minutes, the store exploded with EMS personnel and police. As they examined the suspect, the EMS personnel realized nothing could be done. He was pronounced dead at the scene. After some interviews with the police and the store video confirmed our story, I took my bread and milk and returned home safely to my family. —RS, SC

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POST-COURT MYTHS DISPELLED



Three case reports prove that being cleared in court doesn't protect you from being clearly jammed-up in other ways.

BY MASSAD AYOOB PHOTOS BY JEFF ROSE

In the absence of solid knowledge, people take what they can get, and if the “word on the street” or the advice of someone who seems to know what they’re doing is all they can get, well, that’s all they have to go with. It gets to the point where people who don’t know the reality come to believe that the myth is the reality, and the reality is the myth, and that’s really sad.

Inevitably, bad advice will cause a great deal of trouble to someone who was unfortunate enough to follow it. Let’s look at some examples of bad advice—“myths,” if you will—that can bring people to tragedy.

Myth #1:

“A Good Shoot Is A Good Shoot”

Whenever I hear this shibboleth, I want to say, “Yeah, and next year, the U.S. Senate is going to balance the budget.” In 2013, America watched the trial of George Zimmerman in Florida, which I’ll call **Case One**. An elected captain of the local neighborhood watch, George Zimmerman was attacked by a young man he had spotted acting suspiciously during a rainstorm in the dark, prompting him to call 911. The evidence, then and later, clearly showed that the much taller 17-year-old had attacked Zimmerman, punched him to the ground and banged his head on a hard surface by the time Zimmerman drew his legally carried, semi-automatic pistol and killed him with a single shot.

The result was a never-ending ordeal. Within the first 48 hours of the investigation, it was clear to the trained, professional detectives that there was no reason Zimmerman could be convicted of wrongdoing, and it soon became clear to the jurisdiction’s chief prosecutor that the same was true. However, the family of the deceased hired a lawyer who in turn brought in a very professional public relations team, and soon the entire nation believed that the shooter was a racist who had profiled and murdered a boy armed only with a box of Skittles. The



“If we confuse how we think things should be with how things actually are, we do so at risk of life-destroying peril.”

trial ended in an acquittal, but George Zimmerman was left with a severely crippled future and considerable time spent in a jail cell.

Myth #2:

“If You’re Acquitted, It’s All Good”

This particular childish myth seems to be a favorite on the internet. Let’s continue for a moment with the Zimmerman case. Yes, he was acquitted, but he still has a legal bill reported to be seven figures that he’ll probably never be able to pay. He has also been called “the most hated man in America.” He is virtually unemployable, and he and his family live in constant fear from so many death threats that everyone seems to have lost count. After reading this, can anyone seriously consider that a “good outcome” for the defendant?

Consider **Case Two** in Texas, where I spoke first to the grand jury pondering indictment, and later to the petit jury in the civil lawsuit. A rancher came home from church to find his house being burgled by a man who turned out to have a long history of drug abuse and criminal behavior. He confronted the burglar outside his home, and the burglar fled to his getaway car carrying a bag the homeowner recognized as his own. The rancher knew the bag contained two pistols, both of which were loaded.

The rancher ordered the man to halt. The suspect drove his getaway car straight at the rancher and his two innocent companions, one a young boy, while reaching into the bag—obviously for a gun. Deadly force twice over! The rancher fired a single shot, which killed the criminal instantly and ended the lethal danger



Even if you're found legally justified in defending your home with lethal force, you may be faced with years of costly legal and social ramifications.

to the three innocent parties.

It took literally years for this to play out. The grand jury returned no true bill, clearing him on the criminal side of things. However, because of the different standards of proof, this was no bar to a civil lawsuit, which was filed. Finally, at the end of the civil lawsuit trial, the rancher was totally exonerated as well. But ask yourself whether all those years of false accusation—and the six-figure cost of his legal defense, which he never recovered—can be translated as “Well, you were finally cleared of everything, so it’s all good.”

Myth #3: **“If It Was Self-Defense,** **I Can’t Be Sued In My State.”**

You might want to read the fine print on this one, with the “fine print” encompassing case law. Most of these laws, where they exist, have been around for no more than a decade, which means they haven’t been written in stone in the case law

interpretations of the higher courts yet. Usually, the wording of the law will grant civil immunity in cases where it has been determined to be self-defense. Therein lies the mystery: What exactly constitutes that critical word, “determined”?

A prosecutor deciding not to prosecute is unlikely to be enough. The prosecutor handles criminal law, where the standard of proof is beyond a reasonable doubt, or a high 90th percentile degree of certainty. If the prosecutor doesn’t try the case because they don’t think they can “prove that high,” that is no bar at all to a civil court lawsuit, where the standard is a much lower preponderance of evidence, a greater-than-50-percent certainty. By that standard, even being tried and found not guilty in criminal court does not guarantee “determination” under the civil court’s lowered preponderance of evidence standard.

Florida has such a law. In **Case Three**, I was retained by a criminal defense lawyer for anticipated charges after an armed citizen shot and killed a burglar on his own property. At the moment of the shooting, the burglar was coming at the homeowner and another family member and appeared to be reaching for a gun. The prosecuting authority, the state’s attorney’s office, decided not to indict. However, that office stopped short of issuing a memorandum of closure that explicitly stated that the shooting had been determined to be self-defense.

The result? Last I heard, the lawsuit filed by the family of the deceased criminal against the shooter was ongoing. One lawyer I talked to who is close to the case estimated the legal fees would hit \$100,000 for the shooter and his family, with no guarantee of winning at trial. Since the case remains active, it will not be cited by name here.

By the way, just about anyone can still file a lawsuit on just about anyone for just about anything. What these laws say is that once the lawsuit has been filed, there is a provision for the judge to throw it out if it is shown to have been determined self-defense. However, the showing of that determination will still have to happen in court, and you’ll still have to hire an attorney to make that happen.

Bottom Line

What you’re reading is a short column, and there was only space for three myths and three cases. The fact is that there are a lot more of both. If we confuse how we think things should be with how things actually are, we do so at risk of life-destroying peril. **CH**

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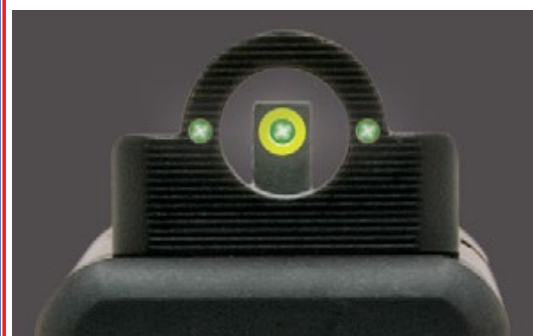
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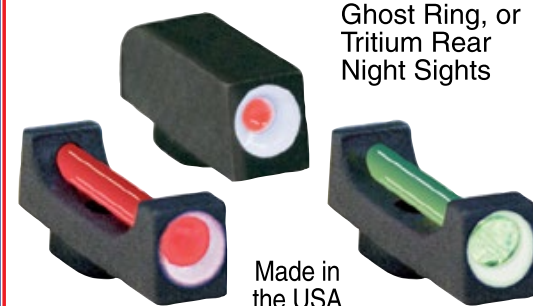
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OPTIMIZED GLOCKS

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Here's a **FIRST LOOK** at Glock's
4 new Threaded Barrel models
&
4 new MOS
(Modular Optic) models.

TEXT & PHOTOS BY SEAN UTLEY



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS VERY INVOLVED IN ALL THINGS SPORT BIKES.

Every month I'd pick up various publications to read what was new and great in the marketplace and there was a statement that appeared fairly frequently, because of the constant addition of new and improved technologies and products. It read something like this: "These are very good times for sport bike riders."

As I sit and admire Glock's new "TB" (threaded barrel) models, I can't help but think about how those words are so true for today's shooters. These are truly good times for gun enthusiasts. Glock has helped make things even better by recognizing the shooter's desire for suppressors and suppressed shooting.

The folks at Glock informed me that they decided to start offering threaded barrels due to their customers' increased interest in suppression, and that they wanted to offer an OEM option to their customers. Good move, Glock. And after having tested them, I can say that the TB line is quality ware that you'll definitely want to consider adding to your collection.

🎯 SUPPRESSOR SURGE

Before we get into the product it's important to be aware of the growing suppressor marketplace. Suppressors fall under the National Firearms Act (NFA) and thus require the filing of specific paperwork, which includes a federal background check, fingerprinting and, under certain circumstances, approval from one's local chief law enforcement officer. A \$200 tax is also required. Once all this is completed the user will receive a tax stamp. This is proof that the requirements have been met by the owner and that all the rules have been complied with. It sounds like a lot, and to be honest it can be a bit

Glock's four new threaded-barrel models include the G17 TB, G19 TB, G21 SF TB and G23 TB. Each is primed for quiet training, self-defense and tactical operations.



OPTIMIZED GLOCKS



The muzzle of the G19 TB sports European, left-hand 13.5x1 threading for mounting a sound suppressor.



Each TB Glock is outfitted with raised sights designed for use with suppressors. Note the taller, unmarked rear sight unit.

SPECIFICATIONS	
GLOCK 19 TB	
Caliber	9mm
Barrel	4.57 inches
OA Length	7.91 inches
Weight	23.88 ounces (empty)
Grips	Polymer
Sights	Fixed
Action	Safe Action
Finish	Black, surface hardened
Capacity	15+1
MSRP	\$649

overwhelming the first time you go to do this. But what's truly interesting is that the number of NFA forms processed has increased every year between 2005 and 2013, according to info posted by the ATF. Those increases were greater than 25,000 per year in 2012 and 2013. Although the entirety of these increases may not be due to suppressor acquisition, it's surely a good chunk of it. Be sure to check your state and local laws concerning the acquisition and ownership of suppressors.



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As with all Glock pistols, the TB models feature the ultra-reliable, foolproof Safe Action trigger.

SPECIFICATIONS	
GLOCK 21 SF TB	
Caliber	.45 ACP
Barrel	5.16 inches
OA Length	8.58 inches
Weight	29.46 ounces
Grips	Polymer
Sights	Fixed
Action	Safe Action
Finish	Black, surface hardened
Capacity	13+1
MSRP	\$687

● SILENCE, PLEASE

Glock's G19, G17, G23 and G21 SF pistols will don the TB designation and be offered for those interested in a complete factory gun. Glock owners can also order the barrels a la carte, to spice up previous versions of these models that they may already have in their collections. I was informed by Glock that these barrels are made in Austria. Though that may be the case, the company also mentioned that they can be made in the U.S. as well, but I was not given information as to why or when the latter would be the case. Just know that Glock's reputation for quality will in no way be affected by these new products. Glock uses a high grade of steel to produce its threaded barrels, and the type is closely guarded. The polygonal rifling that Glock is famous for still resides within each barrel.

The threaded barrels are approximately 13.5 millimeters longer than standard Glock barrels. This increased length means more Glocks in the hands of Canadian firearm owners, as the G19



For fast targeting in low-light conditions, Glock equips its TB pistols with tall, easy-to-see, green-dot front sights.

“In addition to the excellent barrels, Glock's TB pistols come with equally impressive sights.”

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NEW REFLEX-READY GLOCKS

BY CHRIS EDWARDS

Glock has once again exponentially expanded the choices shooters have with the introduction of the Modular Optic System (MOS) Configuration for a number of Glock models. In a nutshell, Glock engineers altered the external profile of the Glock slide to accept mounting plates to accommodate the different “footprints” of the popular mini reflex sights available on the market. A number of popular mini reflex sights can be mounted, including those from Trijicon, Leupold and C-More, on Glocks with the MOS Configuration slides.

SPECIFICATIONS

G34 Gen4 In MOS Configuration

Caliber	9mm
Barrel	5.31 inches
OA Length	8.74 inches
Weight	25.95 ounces (empty)
Grips	Polymer
Sights	Fixed
Action	Safe Action
Finish	Black, surface hardened
Capacity	17+1
MSRP	\$699



G34 Gen4 In MOS Configuration

The 9mm G34 Gen4 in MOS Configuration has a barrel length of 5.31 inches, a loaded weight with a standard-capacity, 17-round magazine at around 33 ounces and a trigger pull weight of 4.5 pounds. A larger reversible magazine catch and extended slide stop lever are a few of the enhancements standard on this model. The frame also incorporates a rail for mounting external lighting devices, such as white lights and/or lasers.

G35 Gen4 In MOS Configuration

Chambered in .40 S&W, the G35 Gen4 in MOS Configuration's size parameters closely match those of the old Government Model 1911, but with twice the ammunition capacity with its standard magazines—16 rounds versus eight! As with all Gen4 GLOCKS, this pistol has the full, 360-degree, high-traction grip surface, which makes it easier to firmly control the pistol during rapid fire. The dual recoil spring assembly, calibrated to the .40 S&W cartridge, reduces felt recoil and serves to protect the frame over thousands of rounds.

SPECIFICATIONS

G35 Gen4 In MOS Configuration

Caliber	.40 S&W
Barrel	5.31 inches
OA Length	8.74 inches
Weight	27.53 ounces (empty)
Grips	Polymer
Sights	Fixed
Action	Safe Action
Finish	Black, surface hardened
Capacity	15+1
MSRP	\$699

G41 Gen4 In MOS Configuration

This Glock comes in “America's Caliber,” the venerable yet still potent .45 ACP. It melds the “Practical/Tactical” design concept to a big-bore cartridge, resulting in maximum performance. Inherent in the Gen4 design is the Glock Multiple Backstrap System (MBS), which allows a user to adjust the size of the grip to fit the individual operator's hand. A total of four available backstraps guarantee complete adaptability.

SPECIFICATIONS

G41 Gen4 In MOS Configuration

Caliber	.45 ACP
Barrel	5.31 inches
OA Length	8.9 inches
Weight	27 ounces (empty)
Grips	Polymer
Sights	Fixed
Action	Safe Action
Finish	Black, surface hardened
Capacity	13+1
MSRP	\$699



G40 Gen4 In MOS Configuration

Brand new for 2015, this Glock shoots the powerful 10mm Auto cartridge out of a superb cold-hammer-forged, 6.02-inch barrel. This barrel length allows the 10mm Auto to reach its maximum velocity and energy potential. This pistol will be highly sought after by deer and wild boar hunters, and it would be a perfect Glock for self-defense against dangerous game, such as wild bear. Its standard magazine holds 15 hard-hitting 10mm Auto rounds.

SPECIFICATIONS

G40 Gen4 In MOS Configuration

Caliber	10mm Auto
Barrel	6.02 inches
OA Length	9.49 inches
Weight	31.32 ounces (empty)
Grips	Polymer
Sights	Fixed front, adjustable rear
Action	Safe Action
Finish	Black, surface hardened
Capacity	15+1
MSRP	\$699

OPTIMIZED GLOCKS



The OEM threaded barrels still feature Glock's famed polygonal rifling.

“...Glock's threaded barrels are very capable of delivering very acceptable accuracy.”

TB and G23 TB meet the barrel-length requirement for legal Canadian ownership. As you might expect, these barrels have European left-hand threading. The threads on the G19 TB, G17 TB and G23 TB are 13.5x1 while the G21 SF TB is 16x1. You'll need to know that when you go to attach a suppressor to your Glock.

In addition to the excellent barrels, Glock's TB pistols come with equally impressive sights. They are raised so that an attached suppressor will not interfere with the shooter's sight picture. These sights feature a light green dot on the front post, and the rear sight is completely blacked out. It's very easy to quickly pick up the sights when aiming, and I personally feel they greatly aided in achieving solid accuracy results from the guns I tested. These are some of the best raised sights that I've seen. I should also note that a polymer thread protector is included with your threaded barrel.

ENHANCED TRAINER

The most obvious benefit of suppressors is their ability to effectively reduce the sound signature of a firearm. Simply put, it's quieter shooting. Other factors come into play, though, such as the ammo that the shooter is using. When it comes to 9mm ammo, a subsonic load (typically 147 grains or heavier) is necessary to achieve an actual hearing-safe level, depending on the suppressor. For those shooting .45 ACP, your typical 230-grain ball ammo will be very quiet since it is subsonic. Non-subsonic ammo can be shot through suppressors and the sound



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OPTIMIZED GLOCKS



PERFORMANCE		
GLOCK 19 TB 9mm		
LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Black Hills 115 TAC-XP +P	1,137	2.48
Federal Premium LE 124 HP	1,191	1.55
Winchester 115 JHP	1,114	2.14

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FEET PER SECOND (FPS) BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

will be significantly reduced, just be careful when opting not to wear hearing protection while shooting supersonic ammo. Know your suppressor's sound ratings before heading to the range.

Suppressed shooting means a very dirty gun, which is of no real consequence with the unfettered reliability of Glocks. Just keep in mind that more extensive and frequent cleaning will be necessary when you use a suppressor. Also, since the Glock has a tilting barrel, you'll need a booster device attached to your suppressor for proper functioning.

RANGE WORKOUT

I headed to the range with a G19 TB and G21 SF TB. I'm never enthused about shooting pistols from 25 yards. I've tested standard Glock 19s at this distance and have never been happy with my results and I assumed this test would be no different. I was wrong. Shooting the G19 TB, I managed a 1.55-inch group using Federal Premium LE 124-grain hollow point (HP). If my memory serves me correctly, I've never achieved a group smaller than 2 inches with a G19. This group felt especially easy to muster thanks to the great sights attached to the gun. Having never tested a Glock chambered in .45 ACP, I felt good about the 1.88-inch group from the G21 TB. This best group came from Black Hills 230-grain JHP +P. Subsequent

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The G19 TB and G21 SF TB worked well with Gemtech's GM-9 and GM-45 suppressors.

PERFORMANCE		
GLOCK 21 SF TB .45 ACP		
LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Black Hills 230 JHP +P	902	1.88
Hornady Critical Duty 220 +P	951	2.48
Winchester WIN 1911 230 JHP	847	2.33

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FEET PER SECOND (FPS) BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

groups from both guns were greater than 2 inches, but it was very evident that with the right ammo, Glock's threaded barrels are very capable of delivering very acceptable accuracy.

I completed further testing with suppressors attached to each gun: a Gemtech GM-9 in 9mm and a GM-45 in .45. These suppressors are lightweight and offer great noise reduction. One of the best features about both of these offerings from Gemtech is their ability to be serviced by the user. The suppressor can be easily disassembled for the shooter to clean or to simply admire the beautiful mono-core technology within them. Both Gemtech suppressors were originally set up for right-hand-twist barrels, so Gemtech helped me find the appropriate linear inertial decouplers (boosters) for left-handed threads. Both Glock TB models ran appropriately with the suppressors attached, and I enjoyed the optimum sound suppression they offered while shooting at the range.

Glock has done a good job with its new TB line. They're made as well as you'd expect a Glock product to be. If you're so inclined to pick one up, be sure to take the time to find out which ammo is most accurate from your particular gun. I highly doubt you'll be disappointed with the results. For more information, visit us.glock.com or call 770-432-1202. **CH**

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GET INTO THE

XD MOD.2



Springfield Armory fine-tunes its polymer-framed powerhouse **GRIP ZONE** to truly make the shooter one with the gun.

BY DENNIS ADLER



The 9mm XD Mod.2 is a leaner, better-handling gun than its predecessor. The Mod.2 incorporates a newly engineered gripping surface, redesigned slide and frame contours, as well as features developed for Springfield's latest XD-S Series.



Some would argue, and rightly so, that once you have something right, let it be, but Springfield Armory has been developing XD variations since its first polymer-framed models were introduced back in 2001. Over the years, the company has made continual improvements and upgrades to its existing models while also introducing groundbreaking new designs like the XD-S series. What you have with the new 9mm XD Mod.2 is an outstanding “hybrid” of the proven 3-inch-barrelled XD Sub-Compact design (introduced in 2003) combined with features from the latest XD-S models, including new frame and slide contours, an XD-S red fiber-optic front and white-dot combat rear sights, Springfield’s improved Mod.2 Grip Zone and a cleaner, leaner, more integrated look overall.

The new design for the XD Sub-Compact represents significant alterations in the polymer frame’s shape and, most notably, how the frame and slide integrate externally. It is a more cohesive look. Think of it as fine-tuning to make the 9mm XD Mod.2 easier to handle,

with slightly leaner dimensions in the re-contoured slide and frame to improve holstering and concealment.

🎯 GET IN THE ZONE

Springfield’s new Grip Zone texturing is not as aggressive as some guns today, but rather designed to create a variety of surfaces that easily meld with the hand (or even the surface of a tactical glove) without biting the skin on recoil. The overall concept is based around the dynamics of the human hand, and the new Grip Zone has a trio of interrelating surfaces that work to connect the hand to the pistol. The three-quarter panel, where the palm swell and the first joints of the fingers wrap around the grip, is the most aggressively textured. The front and rear surfaces are the second most aggressively textured where the palm and the insides of the fingers grasp the pistol. The third is a somewhat mild, light grain texture that extends from the side panels to the entire frame.

The Grip Zone is intended to provide improved grasp performance and “stickier grip characteristics,” making

the Mod. 2 less prone to torque, wrench or lever during recoil. The triggerguard is also rounded at the front, like the XD-S, rather than squared off like earlier Springfield XD models.

In addition to a slimmer contour, the new Mod.2 slide also has several improvements including new serrations at the rear, which Springfield is calling the Posi-Wedge Slide Serration. This deeply recessed design with five grooves helps reduce the chance for slippage when racking the slide. Adding the XD-S red fiber-optic front sight helps to get on target faster under varying lighting conditions. When combined with the combat-style white-dot rear sight, the overall sight radius is also extended by 0.5 inches.

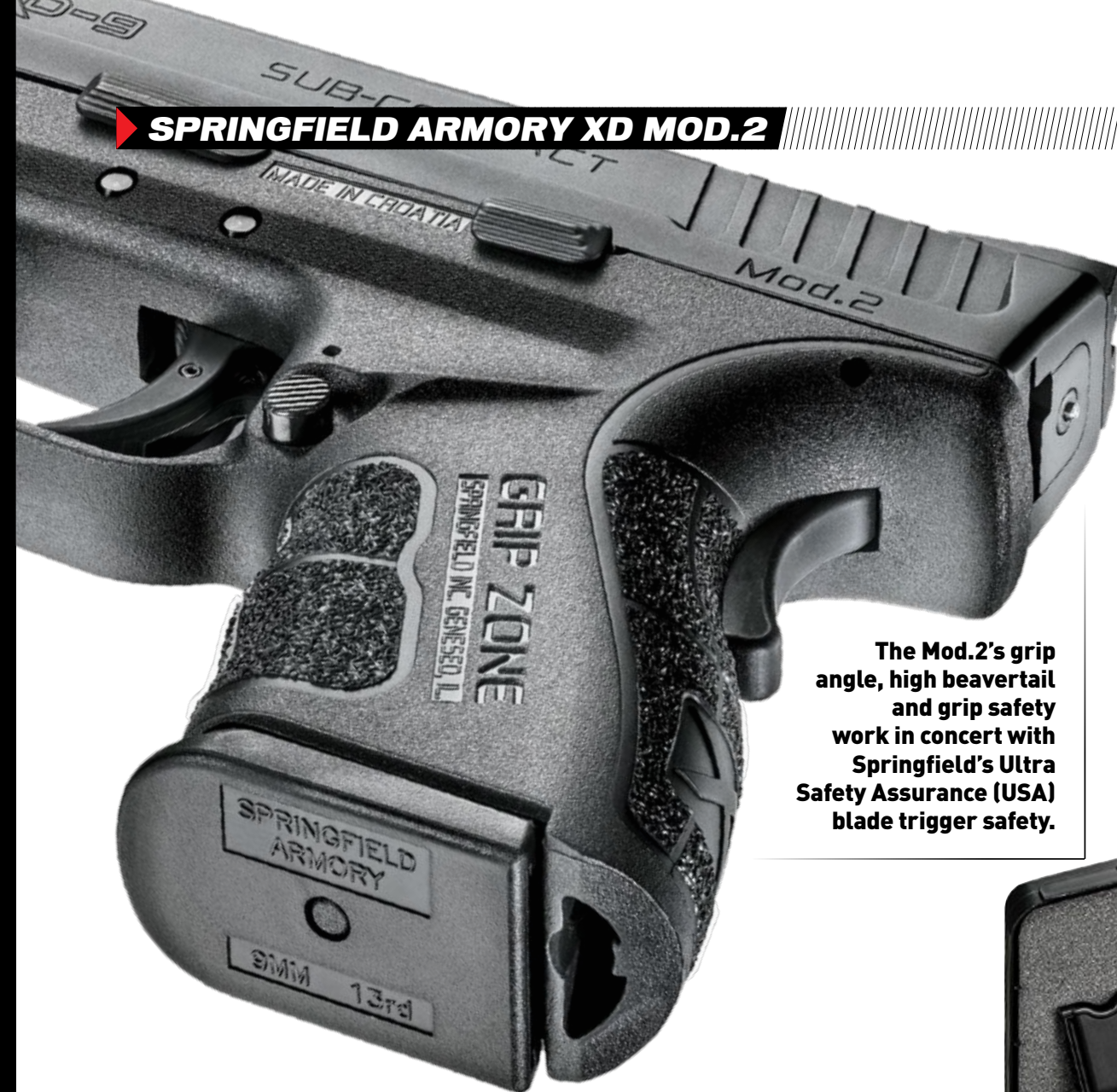
With the XD’s grip angle, high beavertail and grip safety working in concert with Springfield’s Ultra Safety Assurance (USA) blade trigger safety, the Mod.2 takes nothing away from the previous XD Sub-Compact design, but adds features that bring this established Springfield model up to par with the latest XD-S series. The end result is improved sights

New slide and frame contours create a cohesive look with an integrated belt line that carries from the slide into the frame.



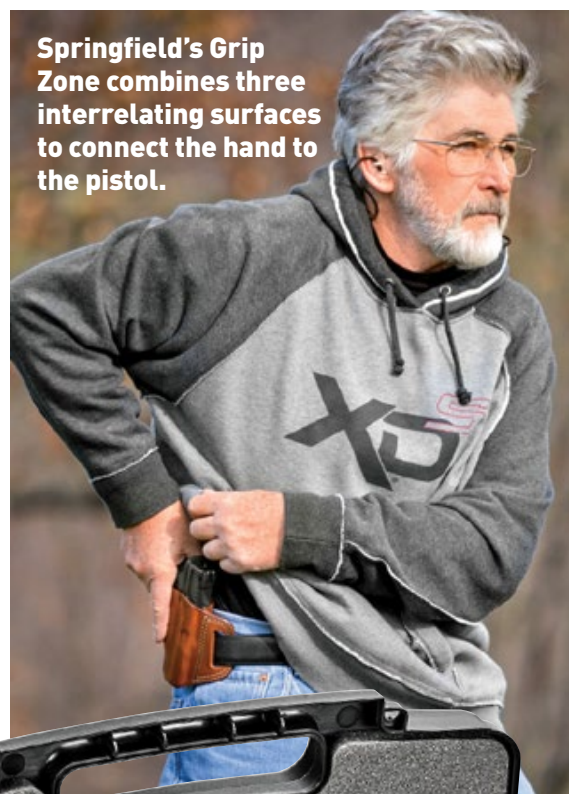
“...the Mod.2 takes nothing away from the previous XD Sub-Compact design, but adds features that bring this...model up to par with the latest XD-S series.”

▶ SPRINGFIELD ARMORY XD MOD.2



The Mod.2's grip angle, high beavertail and grip safety work in concert with Springfield's Ultra Safety Assurance (USA) blade trigger safety.

Springfield's Grip Zone combines three interrelating surfaces to connect the hand to the pistol.



“The end result is improved sights... smoother exterior lines for carry and concealment and a better gripping surface.”

over previous XD Sub-Compact versions, smoother exterior lines for carry and concealment and a better gripping surface. That is what should define improvements: nothing more or less than what is absolutely needed.

● NEXT-GEN DESIGN

With two external safeties, the 9mm XD Mod.2 retains a clean, uncluttered profile with a slightly raised, serrated slide release and a beveled takedown lever on the left side of the frame. And like all XD models, this latest Springfield semi-auto is one of the quickest guns in the world to field strip. The new gun is also just as easy to reload thanks to its serrated, ambidextrous magazine releases, which are placed at a slight angle and framed by the

molded-in thumb rest. A firm press from either side rapidly expels a magazine for a tactical or full reload.

The XD design's proven loaded-chamber indicator also remains one of the easiest to see and feel. Located behind the ejector port on top of the slide, the front edge projects upward just enough when a round is chambered to either see it under your line of sight, or surreptitiously feel it by running a finger over the top of the slide. The Mod.2 also has the original XD's striker status indicator at the rear of the slide, which protrudes slightly from the back when the action has been cycled. This too is easy to feel with a touch of the finger, and is one feature that is not available on the later Springfield XD-S series.

Being a single-action, there is no second-strike capability, however the quick-reset trigger mechanism only requires the slide to be withdrawn to the rear 0.25 inches to re-enable the action. Internally, the Mod.2 uses the same proven short recoil system as all XD Series semi-autos. The barrel design employs the later Browning solid camming lug, and locks to the slide with a squared face on the breechblock. A steel locking block, through which the disassembly lever passes, is pinned to the Mod.2's lightweight polymer frame. Recoil for the subcompact 9mm is tempered by the dual recoil system, which combines a large coil spring and secondary smaller coil spring within a captive-style, two-piece recoil guide rod assembly.

SPECIFICATIONS	
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY XD MOD.2	
Caliber	9mm
Barrel	3 inches
OA Length	6.25 inches
Weight	26 ounces (empty)
Grips	Polymer
Sights	White-dot rear, fiber-optic front
Action	Striker-fired
Finish	Melonite
Capacity	13+1/16+1
MSRP	\$549-\$616

The red fiber-optic front sight on the Mod.2 is taken from the latest XD-S models and provides faster sight acquisition than earlier white-dot sights used on the XD Series.



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SPRINGFIELD ARMORY XD MOD.2

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XD Carry Options



GALCO'S COMBAT MASTER:

Every Springfield semi-auto comes with a complete set of accessories, including its own injection-molded, contoured paddle holster. For XD carry options, Galco has its latest Combat Master designed for the Springfield XD Series. This is the Model CM444 for 3-inch-barreled subcompacts. The Combat Master is one of the most proven belt holster designs in use today with civilians and law enforcement. Its traditional pancake design, which is comprised of two separate pieces of premium saddle leather, is double stitched for durability with a hand-molded contour to the pouch that firmly secures the gun in a traditional open-top pouch. The cut of the Combat Master provides a slight butt-forward cant for easier draw, and a curved contour to keep the holster and gun closer to the body. MSRP is \$85. (galcogunleather.com; 800-874-2526)



CROSSBREED CARRY:

CrossBreed Holsters currently offers a full lineup of handcrafted holsters to accommodate the new Springfield XD Mod.2, including its patented SuperTuck, which is one of the most comfortable inside-the-waistband (IWB) holsters on the market today. Available in cowhide black, hard-rolled tan cowhide or horsehide neutral, as well as in standard or combat cut configurations, the SuperTuck provides an extremely versatile solution for everyday carry tasks.

Aside from the SuperTuck, CrossBreed has several other high-quality holster options as well as magazine carriers to accommodate the Springfield XD Mod.2, including the QwikClip, SnapSlide, SuperSlide, Ohai, Bedside Backup, Purse Defender and the company's Modular Holsters with RAM mounting capabilities. (crossbreedholsters.com; 888-732-5011)

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RANGE REPORT

The Mod.2's staggered, flush-fitting magazines hold 13 rounds, giving the subcompact an impressive 14-round capacity. Tipping the scale at 26 ounces unloaded, the 9mm XD Mod.2 measures 6.25 inches in length, 4.75 inches in height from the base of the magazine to the top of the low-profile combat rear sight, and 1.125 inches in width (including slide, frame and slide release lever). In short, it is a pretty small gun for a 14-round 9mm. Springfield also offers an extended-capacity magazine for the Mod.2 that adds another three rounds for a 16+1 capacity and a longer grip (with the magazine's X-Tension), which increases height to 5.5 inches. There will

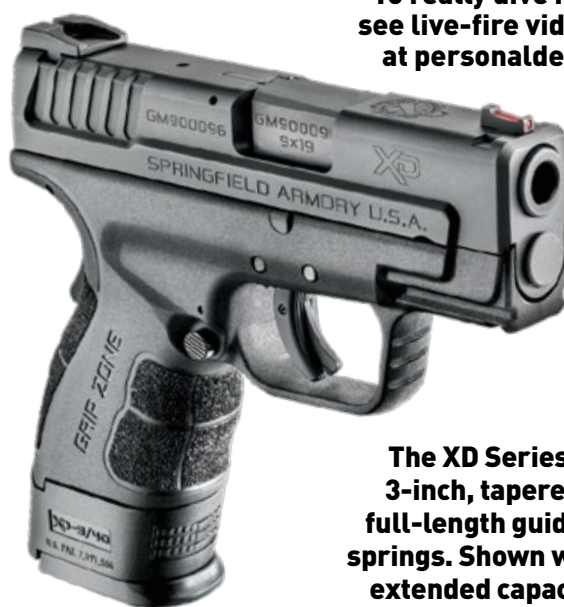
also be a matching Mod.2 chambered in .40 S&W with a 9+1 standard-capacity and 12+1 with the extended magazine.

Trigger pull on the test gun averaged 5.3 pounds. For subcompact handguns with barrel lengths of 3 inches, the standard target testing distance is 15 yards. For the 9mm XD Mod.2, ammo selection was Sig's Elite Performance 124-grain JHP V-Crown, Speer Gold Dot 115-grain GDHP (Gold Dot hollow-point) and Hornady Critical Defense 115-grain FTX. All tests were fired from a rested position at one-second intervals. The Hornady cleared the ProChrono chronograph's traps at an average of 1,110 feet per second (fps), Sig Sauer at 1,059 fps and the Speer traveled downrange at 1,121 fps.

To really dive into the Grip Zone, see live-fire video from the author at personaldefenseworld.com.

PERFORMANCE		
SPRINGFIELD ARMOY XD MOD.2 9mm		
LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Hornady Critical Defense 115 FTX	1,110	1.70
Sig Sauer Elite Performance 124 JHP	1,059	1.27
Speer 124 GDHP	1,121	1.70

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FEET PER SECOND (FPS) BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 15 YARDS.



The XD Series uses Springfield's 3-inch, tapered bull barrel with a full-length guide rod and dual recoil springs. Shown with Springfield's 16+1 extended capacity Mod.2 magazine.



ZONING OUT

The new XD 9mm balances well in the hand and stays put as intended with the Grip Zone texturing. The recoil proved moderate, as is usual for the XD's dual recoil spring design, and sight reacquisition was notably easier with the XD-S-style fiber-optic front sight. All hits scored five points each on the Speedwell B-27 target placed in front of a Target Shooting Solutions 36-inch BCS-36 Bullet Trap.

Best groups averaged from 1.27 to 1.70 inches. A second test was conducted using a Weaver stance and a two-handed hold from 15 yards and firing five rounds in rapid succession. All hits were within the 9, 10 and X rings. From a defensive position, all rounds, whether fired off-hand or from a rest, struck in center body mass on the B-27 target. For more information, please visit springfieldarmory.com or call 800-680-6866. **CH**

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Specifications

Caliber	► .45 ACP
Barrel	► 5 inches
Weight	► 40 ounces
Capacity	► 7+1
MSRP	► \$2,158

E CLASSICS

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BY DENNIS ADLER

Throughout the better part of the 20th century, if you wanted to carry a large-caliber, semi-auto handgun or have one with increased capacity there was only one way to go—you had to opt for packing big iron. Originally, that meant carrying a Colt Government Model 1911, the original large-frame semi-auto packing a single-stack magazine full of hard-hitting .45 ACP. Even more than a century later, the .45 ACP is still the go-to round when law enforcement and Special Forces need to bring a big gun to the fight.

When it came to capacity, however, the 1911, at least in its day, only carried seven rounds. Most 9mm semi-autos didn't fair much better until John M. Browning, who had designed the Model 1911 for Colt, developed the Hi-Power 9mm, which went into production in 1935 with a double-stack magazine that held 13 rounds. This was the highest standard-capacity 9mm until the Beretta Model 92 upped the ante to 15 and Glock trumped it with 17 in 1982. All of these historic designs were originally built for the military and are the foundation for nearly all of today's modern full-size, compact and subcompact semi-auto pistols. As it has been written, it is difficult to appreciate the present if you do not understand the past.

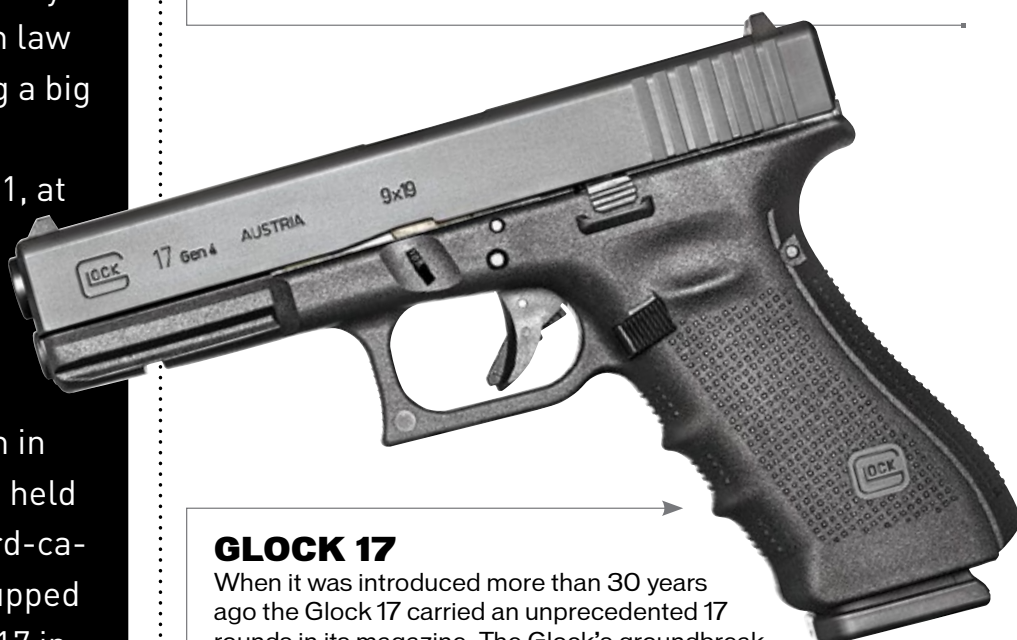


BERETTA 92

The Beretta Model 92 is a DA/SA design that employs an open-slide, short-recoil, delayed-locking-block system to produce a faster cycle time. An ambidextrous safety/decocker makes it flexible for right- or left-handed operators and the magazine release is also reversible. One of the most accurate 9mm pistols available, it is the overall design of the 92FS that has kept it ranked among the best handguns in the world. (berettausa.com; 800-929-2901)

Specifications

Caliber	9mm
Barrel	4.9 inches
Weight	33.3 ounces
Capacity	15+1
MSRP	\$675



GLOCK 17

When it was introduced more than 30 years ago the Glock 17 carried an unprecedented 17 rounds in its magazine. The Glock's groundbreaking polymer frame reduced susceptibility to corrosion, water damage, severe temperatures and damage from impact. The Glock had another advantage with its then unique Safe Action trigger/safety mechanism. Today many of the Glock's features are used by other arms-makers, but in the early 1980s this was groundbreaking technology. Glock changed the way handguns are made. (us.glock.com; 770-432-1202)

Specifications

Caliber	9mm
Barrel	4.48 inches
Weight	23.75 ounces
Capacity	17+1
MSRP	\$599

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Bullet Feed Wheels and Seating Stems are made Caliber Specific for the best fit possible. Spare Toolhead assemblies can be ordered when you use the Rotary Hopper with similar calibers. GSI International Bullet Feed Systems are also available for Dillon Precision's RL and Super 1050s.

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Specifications

Caliber	► .45 ACP, 9mm
Barrel	► 3, 4, 5 inches
Weight	► 31-40 ounces
Capacity	► 7+1
MSRP	► \$1,317-\$1,490



PARA BLACK OPS 14-45

The original Para 1911 increased cartridge capacity from seven rounds to 13 and became one of the most influential firearms designs of the late 20th century. While high-capacity .45 semi-autos are not uncommon today, the latest Black Ops 14-45 (evolved from the original P14-45) features 14+1 capacity. Based on the original P14-45, the Black Ops has a match-grade ramped barrel, black Ionbond finish, ambidextrous thumb safety, skeletonized match-grade trigger, integral accessory rail and VZ Operator G10 grips. (para-usa.com; 888-999-9386)

Specifications

Caliber	► .45 ACP
Barrel	► 5 inches
Weight	► 40 ounces
Capacity	► 14+1
MSRP	► \$1,299



RUGER SR 1911

The 1911 design has inspired countless modern variations and among the very best and most affordable is the Ruger SR 1911. Essentially a Government Model right down to the early-style flat mainspring housing, the Series 70-based SR 1911 offers custom features including an extended beavertail safety, a skeletonized aluminum trigger with overtravel adjustment, skeletonized hammer and 8+1 capacity. The thumb safety, mainspring housing, beavertail safety and slide release are finished in a matte blue/black, contrasting the matte stainless slide and frame. (ruger.com)

Specifications

Caliber	► .45 ACP
Barrel	► 5.0 inches
Weight	► 39 ounces
Capacity	► 8+1
MSRP	► \$829

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SIG P320s give shooters the ability to change calibers, sizes and fit.



SIG SAUER P320

The P320 is Sig's first polymer-framed, striker-fired handgun. The striker-fired DAO design can be equipped with two different trigger systems (one with an integral trigger blade safety) and features a short, crisp trigger pull with a quick, pronounced reset. The entire firing mechanism, frame rails and slide-release are contained in a removable module that can be inserted into different-sized frames, which in turn can be fitted with different slides and barrels for three different calibers: 9mm, .40 S&W and .357 Sig. (sigsauer.com; 866-345-6744)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ 9mm, .40 S&W, .357 Sig

Barrel ▶ 4.7 inches

Weight ▶ 29.4 ounces

Capacity ▶ 17 + 1, 14 + 1, 14 + 1

MSRP ▶ \$713



SMITH & WESSON M&P

The polymer-framed, striker-fired M&P series features a Picatinny rail, reversible magazine release, ambidextrous slide stop, optional thumb safety and a contoured slide and frame. The M&P is available in 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP, making it an all-around carry gun for law enforcement, military and civilian use with a capacity of up to 17 rounds in 9mm, barrel lengths up to 5 inches and a remarkable carry weight for the full-size 9mm version of 24 ounces. (smith-wesson.com; 800-331-0852)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ 9mm, .40 S&W, .45 ACP

Barrel ▶ 4, 4.5 and 5 inches

Weight ▶ 24 ounces to 27.7 ounces

Capacity ▶ 17+1, 15+1, 10+1

MSRP ▶ \$569-\$619

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Specifications

Caliber ▶ .45 ACP

Barrel ▶ 5 inches

Weight ▶ 42 ounces

Capacity ▶ 7+1

MSRP ▶ \$2,647

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The Classic is one of the very best handcrafted, original-style 1911s money can buy. A Government-sized model, the Wilson Classic is built on a carbon steel frame with a 30-lpi, high-cut, checkered frontstrap, a contoured magazine well, a high-ride beavertail grip safety, checkered flat mainspring housing, 5-inch carbon steel slide and a hand-fit, match-grade barrel and bushing. The ultimate expression of the original John Browning design, it is as suitable for home defense, personal carry or competition in this century as it was in the last. (wilsoncombat.com; 800-955-4856)

Specifications

Caliber ▶ .45 ACP

Barrel ▶ 5 inches

Weight ▶ 38 ounces

Capacity ▶ 8+1

MSRP ▶ \$3,030



PRODUCT QUICK HIT

TUFF iPAC PISTOL CASE

Tablet computers have become so ubiquitous even I bought one, and I still carry a pager. It makes perfect sense then that a tablet computer bag could/should be combined with a covert off-body carry holster for CCW use. The new iPAC Pistol Case from TUFF Products does exactly this in an attractive and discreet shoulder bag.

THE GOODS: The main compartment will fit any tablet up to 8 by 10 inches which includes the iPad 2, 3, 4 and Air, with their case. A front accessory pocket holds all of your extra note pads, pens, business cards and so on. At the back of the case is a dedicated



holster pocket with a quick-access zipper system and internal universal holster that will accommodate a full-size pistol (with or without accessory light/laser) and a spare magazine. The case is made from durable nylon and comes in several colors. An adjustable shoulder strap is also included.

NOTE OF CAUTION: Off-body carry can be a very convenient and comfortable way to have a concealed pistol with you regardless of weather or clothing. The only caveat is that you have to make sure to keep constant control of the bag at all times. Do not leave the bag unattended or put it down and forget it someplace. This is a hard lesson that anyone who carries concealed off body needs to remember. Of course, knowing it is holding both your gun and an expensive tablet computer should incentivize the average person to keep an eye on the iPAC Pistol Case. For more, visit tuffproducts.com or call 877-883-3776.—JORGE AMSELLE

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SIG P226 X-FIVE SHORT...

**and totally sweet
for beating the clock
or pulling personal
defense duty!** BY DR. MARTIN D. TOPPER



Sig Sauer's new X-Five pistols elevate the venerable P226 to a new level of performance. Even so, the X-Fives aren't just another series of race guns. That's especially true of the X-Five Short. With its handy 4.4-inch barrel, accessory rail, 19-shot magazine and fully adjustable single-action (SA) trigger, the X-Five Short is also a good choice for military special operations, SWAT team precision shooting and civilian home defense.

The X-Five Short has a number of features that make it ideal for fast and accurate shooting. The matte black color of its sights and operating controls offer an eye-catching contrast with its matte stainless finish. The striations on the rear surface of the fully adjustable rear sight and the rear of the front sight blade further reduce glare and enhance contrast. The 20 line-per-inch checkering on the front of the hooked triggerguard and the frame's front grip strap are well executed and provide a solid hold. The grip is further enhanced by X-shaped checkering panels on the wraparound, laminated wood grip. The grip itself

is contoured and fit my hand like a glove.

The controls and surfaces of the pistol are what one would expect in a gun intended for competition. All edges are "melted," leaving no sharp corners or edges to cut the hand. The extended magazine release, takedown lever, slide release, hammer spur and ambidextrous safety are serrated, giving them a "no-slip" surface. The extended and flared magazine well is designed for ultra-fast and smooth feeding. The trigger precisely fits the first joint of the trigger finger, and it can be adjusted for pull weight, overtravel and clearance.

With respect to workmanship, the fit of the barrel to the slide was tight and there were no external or internal tool marks or other flaws. There was no excess play between any of the parts, and the hammer could not be pushed off the full or half-cock positions. The two-stage trigger pull had about 0.375 inches of take-up and almost no overtravel. Pull weight was set at 3.5 pounds, which is the maximum pull for which the trigger can be

SEAN UTLEY PHOTO



Sig Sauer's P226 X-Five Short is "short" in name only. It comes up big in all other areas, namely shootability, versatility, function and good looks.



The X-Five Short is a great competition gun that also has many tactical uses. The operating controls on the X-Five Short are well placed.

SPECIFICATIONS	
SIG P226 X-FIVE SHORT	
Caliber	9mm
Barrel	4.4 inches
OAL Length	8.2 inches
Weight	43.5 ounces
Grips	Laminated hardwood
Sights	Front blade, Patridge rear
Action	SA
Finish	Matte stainless
Capacity	19+1
MSRP	\$2,749

adjusted. That's definitely where I would leave it for both competition and self-defense. Overall, the pistol's quality of manufacture is excellent.

● BENCH TEST

The X-Five Short was fired for accuracy and velocity with Black Hills' 115-grain +P XTP HP, CorBon's 115-grain DPX +P, Hornady's Critical Defense 115-grain FTX and Freedom Munitions' 147-grain HP load. Matches were fired using



The easy-handling X-Five Short has clean lines with melted edges.

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MEET THE X-FIVE FAMILY



X-FIVE OPEN: Made to deliver maximum speed and accuracy, the Open is a 5-inch-barreled, stainless steel, single-action pistol chambered in 9mm and designed for USPSA Open Class shooting. The pistol features ambidextrous slide rackers, a bridge mount for optics, a compensator and G10 grips. **MSRP: \$4,852.**



X-FIVE TACTICAL ▲

The Tactical is a single-action 9mm. Designed for self-defense, the pistol features fixed sights, a black Nitron slide, a black hard-anodized aluminum frame and a 5-inch barrel. **MSRP: \$1,696.**



X-FIVE ALL-AROUND ▲

Designed for sport shooting, the All-Around is a 5-inch-barreled, stainless steel, double-action/single-action pistol chambered in 9mm and .40 S&W. The 45-ounce pistol also features adjustable sights. **MSRP: \$1,696.**



X-FIVE ENTRY ▲

The Entry is a 5-inch-barreled, stainless steel, single-action pistol chambered in 9mm and .40 S&W that has fixed sights and polymer grips. The pistol also sports a Picatinny rail. **MSRP: \$1,762.**



X-FIVE CLASSIC ▲

Chambered in 9mm and .40 S&W, the double-action/single-action Classic features a 5-inch barrel, stainless steel construction, adjustable sights and walnut grips. **MSRP: \$2,679.**



X-FIVE MATCH ▲

The Match is a 5-inch-barreled, single-action design chambered for 9mm and .40 S&W. Adjustable sights, an accessory rail and black laminate grips make this pistol a serious competitor. **MSRP: \$2,728 (9mm) and \$2,920 (.40 S&W).**



X-FIVE SUPERMATCH ▲

The single-action Supermatch combines a 5-inch barrel, G10 grips and a straight match trigger for maximum performance during competition. Adjustable target sights and a sport takedown lever round out this impressive competitor's offerings. **MSRP: \$3,042.**

“The X-Five Short has a number of features that make it ideal for fast and accurate shooting.”

Reloads are fast with this funneled and flared magazine well, and the matte black sights contrast well with the slide's matte stainless finish.

Winchester's 147-grain Ranger SXT, 147-grain Train and 115-grain “White Box” ammunition. In addition, Federal's 115-grain jacketed round nose (JRN) and American Eagle 124-grain JRN loads were also used in competition. I put a total of almost 500 rounds through the Sig Sauer P226 X-Five Short.

Velocities produced by the X-Five Short's 4.4-inch barrel were considerably faster than with other 9mm handguns that have barrels of similar lengths. The highest-velocity load tested was Black Hills' +P, which is loaded with Hornady's 115-grain XTP bullet. Average velocity was a very respectable 1,422 feet per second (fps), and average muzzle energy was 516 foot-pounds. That's about

halfway between the upper limit of .38 Super and the lower limit of 9x23mm Winchester! Despite this, functioning was perfect with this load. In addition, the weight of the X-Five Short's all-steel construction and its well-designed grips made recoil quite tolerable. Performance with CorBon's 115-grain DPX was also excellent with an average of 1,287 fps and 423 foot-pounds.

Accuracy testing at 25 yards produced average five-shot group results that were in the neighborhood of 3 inches for all loads, except the very high-velocity load from Black Hills which produced groups that averaged just over 4 inches. Higher-pressure handgun loads don't always shoot the tightest groups. In addition, accuracy was probably affected by the shapes of the squared triggerguard and the accessory rail, which made it a bit difficult to rest the pistol on the pistol rest. Therefore, the 1.47-inch group contained in the factory-supplied test target was more representative of the accuracy potential of the X-Five Short. Certainly this pistol's performance in competition demonstrated that it was not difficult to shoot it with precision using either a one- or two-handed hold.

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CorBon's 115-grain DPX +P load produced this 2.88-inch group at 25 yards.

PERFORMANCE		
SIG P226 X-FIVE SHORT 9mm		
LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Black Hills 115 +P XTP	1,422	3.10
CorBon 115 DPX +P	1,287	2.46
Freedom Munitions 147 HP	1,077	2.70
Hornady 115 Critical Defense	1,159	2.47

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FEET PER SECOND (FPS) BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

COMPETITION TESTS

At 43.5 ounces, the all-steel X-Five Short is just a bit over the maximum weight for the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) matches I usually shoot, but the pistol does meet all requirements for United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA), Bullseye matches and Steel Challenge matches. I decided to shoot the X-Five Short at a USPSA match at the Volusia County Gun & Hunt Club, and also at the Flagler Gun & Archery Club's weekly informal Bullseye and Steel Challenge matches.

First up was Bullseye. This discipline has lost some popularity in recent years, but it's still the best competition for practicing handgun fundamentals. Even though the X-Five Short isn't a typical Bullseye pistol, I decided to shoot it in two matches at the Flagler Gun Club. In order to save a bit of ammo for other competitions, the X-Five Short was only shot in just the Centerfire portion of one Bullseye match and in an "Army-L" Bullseye match.

The pistol was fired strong-hand only, and magazines were loaded with

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SIG P226 X-FIVE

five rounds, bringing the total weight of the pistol to about 46 ounces. The key to shooting Bullseye with this pistol was learning to use its two-stage trigger. By staging the trigger to the break point before pulling through, it was possible to get a very clean break. My best Centerfire match score at 25 yards was 89-1X in the timed-fire stage. My score on the Army L's 15-yard, rapid-fire stage was 94-4X. Given my previous lack of familiarity with this pistol, these are decent scores.

USPSA was next. The X-Five Short's 4.4-inch barrel points quickly and the pistol's black adjustable sights show up very well on tan cardboard USPSA targets. The pistol's weight and well-formed gripping surfaces helped control recoil in this speed-oriented discipline, and the X-Five Short's SA trigger is light and consistent.

USPSA competition has very different rules than the IDPA matches I normally shoot. As a result, I lost time when I defaulted to my tactical training, extensively used cover and carefully pied corners instead of standing in the open and rapidly engaging multiple targets. On the other hand, my hits were very good.

The final match was the weekly informal Steel Challenge. Shooting steel proved to be very enjoyable, as long as I remembered that the X-Five Short has a two-stage trigger and not a one-stage trigger like my 1911s. During the second half of the match things really began to come together and the best string was a fast 4.84 seconds. All shots on the five targets were within a 4-inch circle in the middle of the plate. Most of my runs on this half of the course were well under 6 seconds.

My overall times for the USPSA and Steel Challenge matches were hindered by a few stoppages that came when using standard-pressure ammo. This did not happen with any of the +P JHP ammo. European 9mm ammunition is often loaded to higher pressures than ammo produced in the U.S. Given this fact, the problem with the X-Five Short I tested could be solved by a simple tuning of the pistol's internal extractor.

THE TAKEAWAY

The P226 X-Five Short is a very high-quality firearm that's suitable for a variety of shooting competitions and a number of tactical applications. With a little extractor tuning for complete reliability with American ammunition, the test gun could also be an excellent choice for law enforcement SWAT teams and civilian home defense. For more information, visit sigsauer.com or call 866-345-6744. **CH**

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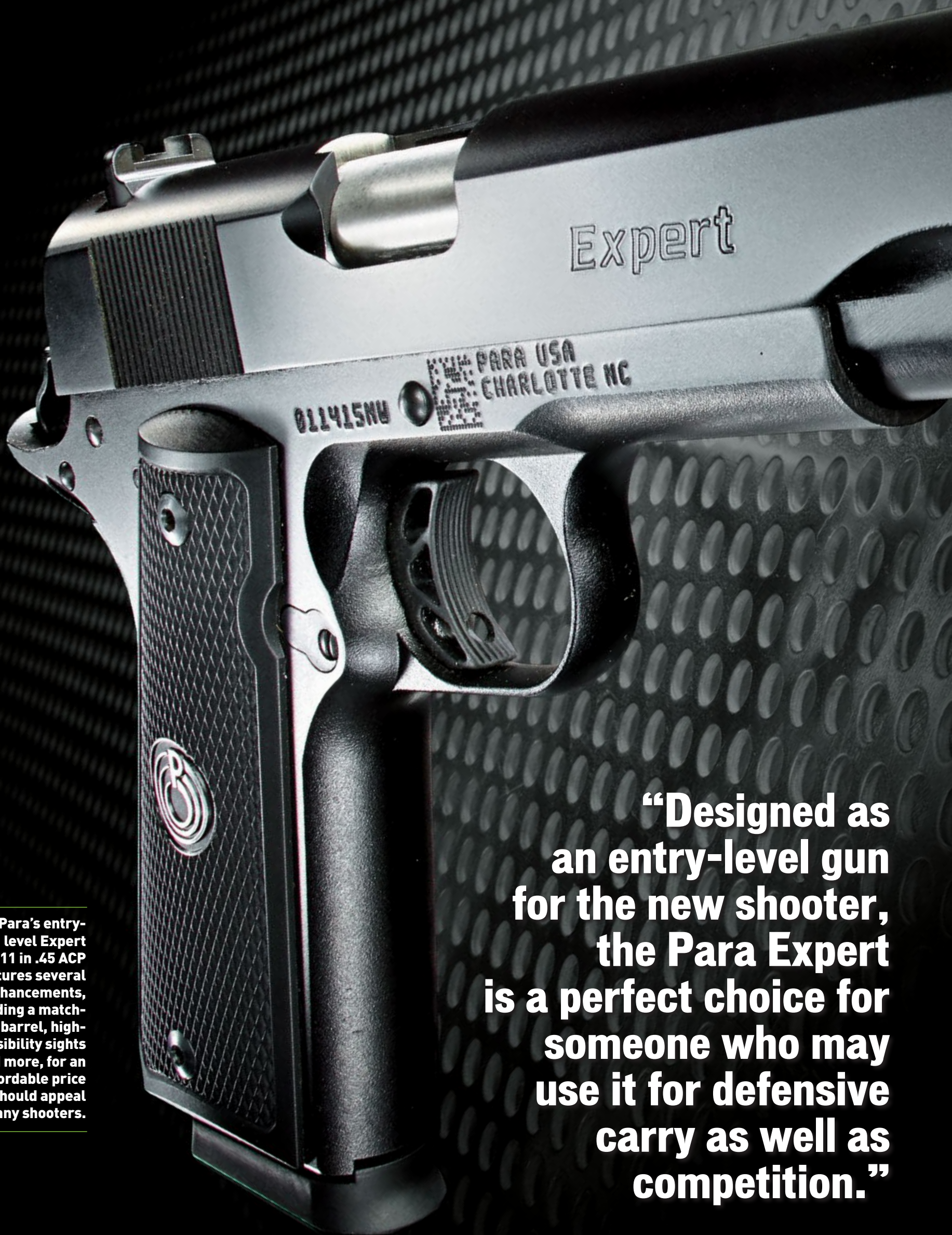


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Para's entry-level Expert 1911 in .45 ACP features several enhancements, including a match-grade barrel, high-visibility sights and more, for an affordable price that should appeal to many shooters.

“Designed as an entry-level gun for the new shooter, the Para Expert is a perfect choice for someone who may use it for defensive carry as well as competition.”



PARA EXPERT

**For decimating steel
without killing your bankroll,
this new 1911 is ready
to rock right out of the box!**

.45



BY MIKE DETTY | **PHOTOS BY** STEVE WOODS

IF YOU'VE EVER WANTED A 1911 TO TRY your hand at action pistol sports but were turned off by the high price and the need for customization, Para USA's new Expert may be your perfect solution. Designed as an entry-level gun for the new shooter, the Para Expert is a great choice for someone who may use it for defensive carry as well as competition. It possesses a number of custom features that will allow the shooter to compete with it straight from the box, and it can also be upgraded as the shooter develops new skills. But perhaps the Expert's most notable feature is its \$663 suggested retail price.

MEET THE EXPERT

I first got my hands on the pistol at Gunsite Academy in Paulden, Arizona, where I shot a number of drills with it and put 20 to 30 magazines of ammo through the gun. What impressed me immediately was its fluorescent green front sight, which glows in daylight and is extremely easy to pick up. The rear sight possesses a wide notch for a quick and unimpeded sight picture. It also has an extended thumb safety, a beavertail grip safety and

a crisp trigger. All of these features are absolute "must haves" for someone who wishes to compete with a 1911.

Para Ordnance produced its guns in Canada for years before moving its manufacturing facility to North Carolina a few years ago and renaming the company Para USA. Two years ago, the Freedom Group, an American firearms manufacturing consortium that also owns DPMS, Bushmaster, Remington, Marlin and a number of other gun companies, bought Para USA. This past year has been spent identifying problems with the product line and developing solutions.

The Freedom Group has made an investment in new machinery to improve consistency of parts and reduce or eliminate costly hand fitting. New quality control inspections have been implemented and key personnel with critical expertise have also been hired. More parts are now being made in-house, where material and quality control can be more stringently exercised. This commitment to excellence is evidenced in my new Expert.

The Expert features a forged stainless steel slide and a cast carbon steel frame. Both parts have a flat black nitride finish.

Looking at the inside of the frame and slide, it was nearly impossible to find a machine mark. Even the frame's recoil spring tunnel exhibited absolutely no machine marks! Frame rails, the disconnect rail and breech face all were perfectly smooth. There is very little discernible play between the frame and slide.

If you do a lot of shooting with a 1911 you'll need a beavertail grip safety. It protects the web of the hand to protect it from "hammer bite" and spreads the recoil over a wider area. Para USA includes this part as standard on this pistol. For competition and defensive use, an extended thumb safety is also needed. My test sample disengages crisply and easily. A lightweight polymer trigger, adjustable for overtravel, is used in the Expert in conjunction with an elongated Commander-style hammer. My test Para Expert 1911's trigger broke crisply at about 4.75 pounds.

To prevent the Expert from firing if dropped on its muzzle, Para USA uses a Series 80-style firing pin safety that mechanically blocks the firing pin from contacting the primer unless purposeful pressure is placed on the trigger.

PARA EXPERT

The Expert's slide features a lowered and flared ejection port. This allows empties to exit the gun unimpeded, and since most competitors are also reloaders, it also ensures that the empty cases are not damaged or dented as they exit the gun. A standard internal, or original style, extractor is fit to the Expert, and the frame uses an extended ejector. The front sight is dovetailed in place and has a fluorescent green optic rod. In sunlight, these types of sights glow bright and help the shooter pick up the front sight. Its rear sight is also dovetailed into the slide and is drift adjustable for windage. Para cuts the rear sight notch wide and square so there is plenty of daylight on both sides of the front sight for quick alignment.

A stainless steel, match-grade barrel is used on the pistol. It is of standard configuration, not of the ramped or supported variety. Para throats the chamber mouth from ear to ear for optimum feeding reliability, and the frame's feed ramp is equally well polished to this same end. During my evaluation I used a variety of defense loads, full metal jacket (FMJ) rounds as well as lead target loads and reloads, all with different overall lengths and bullet nose configurations, and the Expert digested them all without fail!

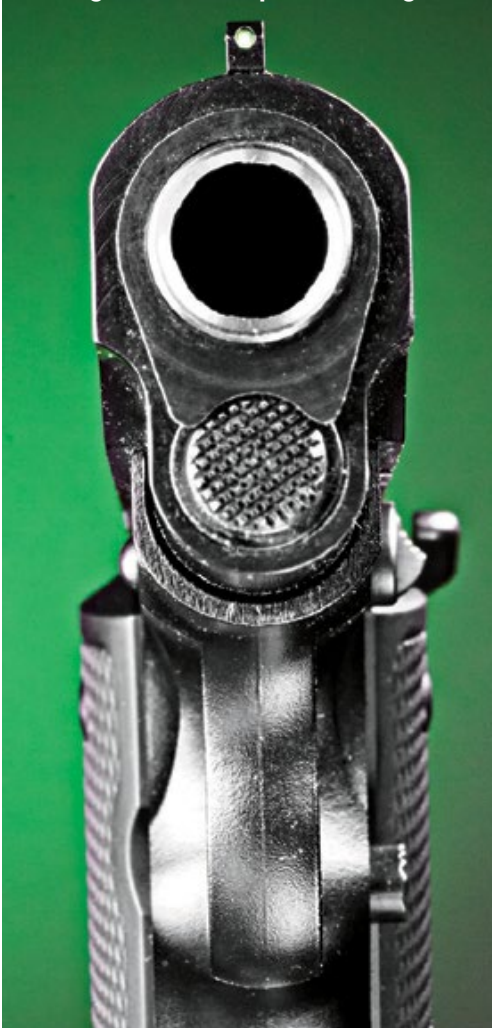


The Expert 1911 features checkered polymer grip panels and a left-side-mounted safety.



The extended beavertail helps prevent slide "bite." Also note the rear sight.

Para equips the Expert with a match-grade stainless steel barrel and a green fiber-optic front sight.



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This modest company is a labor of love for its founder, R.E. Smith and even welds his name. Founded in 2009, RESCO Instruments aspired to build a sleek, simple and rugged timepiece. This vision was realized with the production of the Gen1 "Patriot" model, which now graces the wrists of over 100 active duty US Navy SEALs including Resco's founder, R.E. Smith who is still in active service as a US Navy SEAL.

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To all those who have gone downrange, we salute you!





“...the Expert possesses more than adequate accuracy for defense and competition use! I was downright impressed with this economy-priced pistol’s precision.”

RANGE TIME

I set up my targets at 25 yards and fired five shots to a group. The results are listed below. As you can see, the Expert possesses more than adequate accuracy for defense and competition use! I was downright impressed with this economy-priced pistol’s precision.

The Expert’s sights and crisp trigger made it easy to shoot these small groups. Equally impressive is the fact that even Powder River’s lead, 200-grain semi-wadcutter (SWC) bullets fed, fired and extracted without a bobble. If the gun were

SPECIFICATIONS	
PARA EXPERT	
Caliber	.45 ACP
Barrel	5 inches
OA Length	8.7 inches
Weight	38 ounces
Grips	Polymer
Sights	Rear notch, front blade
Action	SA
Finish	Black nitride
Capacity	8+1
MSRP	\$663



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Photo: Mike Doss, Krieger Training

The all new AUG A3 M1 and the L9-A1 pistol, the perfect combination for sports shooters and law enforcement professionals, alike.



AUG A3 M1 Rifle


The new multi-configurable AUG A3 M1 variant of the Steyr's venerable bullpup platform marks the introduction of MUD and the return of OD Green to its stock color options and adds new features like a front Quick-Disconnect Sling Swivel to classic characteristics like the quick-detach 16-inch barrel and battle-proven short-stroke gas-piston operation. It is available in Short-Rail, High-Rail and Integrated Optic versions with either a 1.5X or 3X scope. At 28.15 inches, Y SBR?



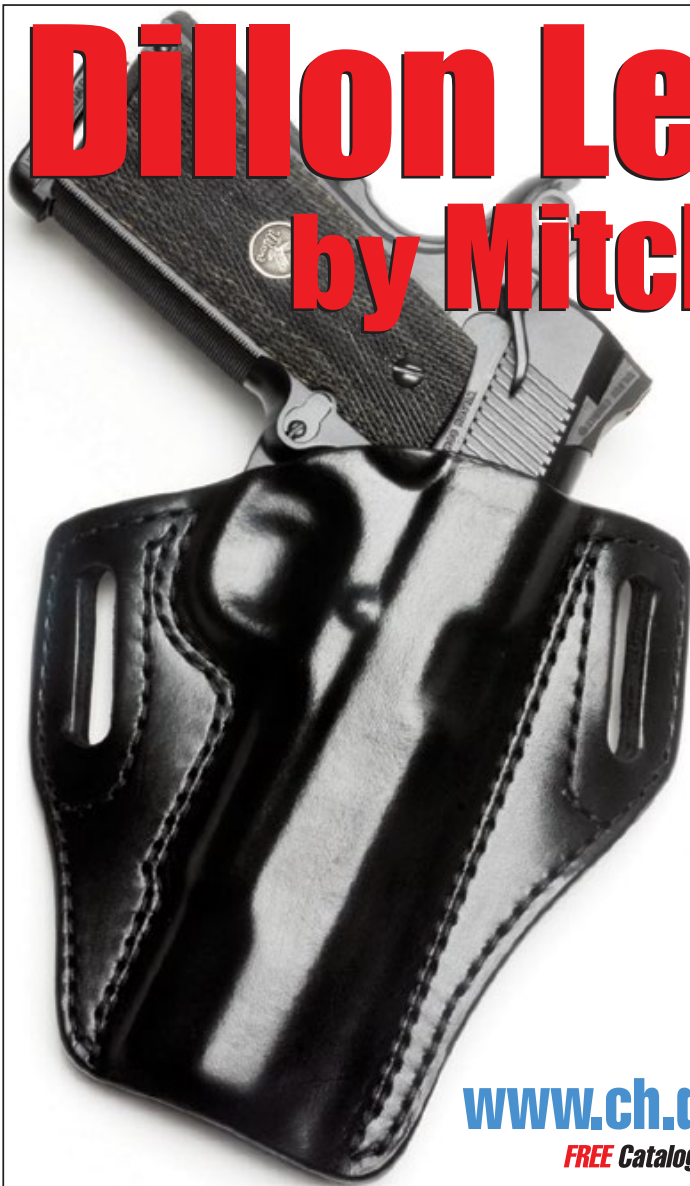
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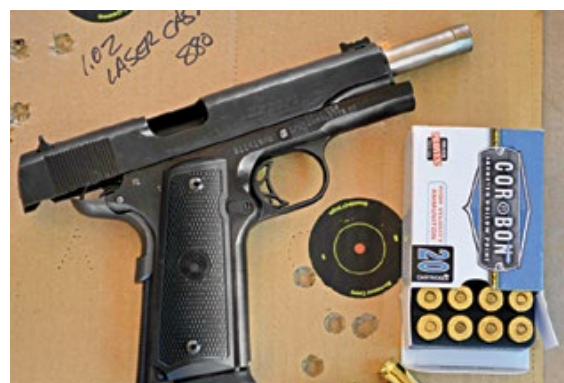
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The author ran several types of ammo through the Expert without a hiccup.

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Remington 230 FMJ	835	2.27
Laser-Cast 200 WW231 Powder	880	1.32

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to choke on any bullet it would have been the semi-wadcutter. By the way, these target loads possess enough velocity to "make major" for U.S. Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) competition.

My favorite practice handload consists of a 200-grain round nose Laser-Cast bullet and enough WW231 powder to achieve a velocity of 880 feet per second (fps). It is an amazingly accurate load that also makes "major," but it is easy on the gun as well as the shooter. With my MGM steel targets set out at 15 yards, I practiced some draw-and-fire exercises. The BC-C Zone target is made from tough 500 brinell steel and has a hinge mechanism that allows the use of cheap and readily available 2x4s as uprights, allowing the target face to hang at a 30-degree angle. It is the same size as a standard IPSC target with the "D" zone removed and can withstand hits from a .308 Winchester rifle. I've had these targets for a number of years now and have shot them with tens of thousands of rounds, mostly from carbines, and haven't yet needed to make even the most minor repair!

While at Gunsite, I used Galco's new Stryker holster. Made from rugged Kydex, the holster features twin adjustable tension screws to adjust the holster to the

“During my evaluation I used a variety of defense loads...as well as lead target loads and reloads...and the Expert digested them all without fail!”

gun. It has a neutral cant, which is my preference, and can fit a belt 1.25 to 1.5 inches in width. There's also a molded channel in the holster to prevent contact with the front sight. It is fast, secure and tough—everything you need for carry or competition. There are no locking mechanisms or safety straps to impede or slow your presentation. The Stryker has become my new favorite holster! I also learned that Galco will soon have spare magazine pouches constructed from the same Kydex material.

● GAME-ON ENHANCEMENTS

If I were going to use the Expert for competition there are some minor changes I would make. All of them involve no more than trading out factory-supplied parts. Even though the frame's magazine chute possesses a modest bevel, I prefer a mag funnel to ensure speedy, bobble-free mag

changes, even on my carry 1911 pistols.


My first choice is a Smith & Alexander mag guide. It replaces the issue main-spring housing and adds 0.25 inches of length to the grip. Because of this, you'll need to use magazines with some sort of bumper pad to seat them fully. These magazine guides are available in blue or stainless finishes, as well as flat and arched configurations.

It's also easier to do a quick mag change if you can engage the release easier, and for that reason I retrofit my competition guns with an Ed Brown oversize button. It is available in blue and stainless finishes and is a drop-in part.

While the Expert features an extended thumb safety, it is not ambidextrous, and that's a handy item to have when shooting the 1911 with your weak hand. Wilson Combat is my pick for this part. From Wilson Combat's Bullet-Proof line of products, the ambi thumb safety with wide

levers will stand up to the thousands of rounds competition shooters run through their pistols. It also is available in blue or stainless finishes.

Black synthetic grips come standard on the Expert, but if you truly want to accessorize your gun, you can't go wrong with VZ Grips. Made from paper, linen, canvas laminates as well as G10 composites, their weight-versus-strength ratio is unmatched. Once you use these no-slip grips you'll not want anything else!

An Expert outfitted with these parts, or other comparable quality parts, would be able to take the right competitor to the highest levels of action pistol competitions. Therein lies the appeal of the Expert. Right out of the box it will serve a novice shooter well and has the ability to be easily upgraded as new skills are acquired. The Para Expert 1911 is also available with a stainless finish and can also be had chambered in 9mm. 

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PAMC 14 380 ACP



Chiappa pays homage to the classics with its 14-SHOT, bigger and bolder feature-laden EDC sidearm.

BY DENNIS ADLER

There's an adage that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. As the old dog in this story, I have to admit to certain traditional features I still prefer when it comes to smaller-caliber, concealed-carry handguns. I grew up in an era when the top guns in that category were the Colt Detective Special, the S&W Chief's Special and, in semi-automatics, the Walther PPK. Only the Walther models remain much the same as in my youth, with the Colt relegated to collector status and the S&W Model 36 regarded as a "classic" version of the old .38 Special revolver.

For the venerable .380 pistol, most of the traditional designs faded from the scene at the end of the 1990s, with the exception of the Walther PPK and PPK/S. But in the early 2000s, semi-auto .380 ACP pistol designs were resurrected in a new and decidedly different form: smaller, lighter and with as few features as possible.

Pistols chambered in .380 ACP have become the most popular and prolific concealed-carry pistols in use today. However, in achieving "smallness," many of the old and desirable features were sacrificed, features that .380s once shared with larger-caliber pistols, such as single-action (SA) and double-action (DA) triggers, an exposed hammer and a manual thumb safety. Most modern day .380s have eschewed one or more of

these features for the sake of a slimmer profile, a lighter weight and more efficient construction. Nearly all have standard capacities limited to six or seven rounds, a few have less than adequate front and rear sights, and others have slides that do not lock back after the last round is fired. We have come to accept these compromises in the name of small, lightweight, concealed-carry pistols.

NEW CCW STANDARD

In 2008 I retired my PPK/S, which I had carried for more than a decade, replacing it with a new subcompact Ruger LCP. Most recently, the slightly larger Glock 42 has taken up residence in my holster. With the G42 I was at last satisfied with contemporary trends and all seemed right with the world—until the new Chiappa MC 14 arrived. With this pistol I am thrown back to a time when guns like my old PPK had features common to almost all semi-autos, only the Chiappa has an even higher 13+1 cartridge capacity.

The Chiappa MC 14 has a strong resemblance to another classic .380, the Beretta Model 84F. Beretta discontinued its classic 13+1 capacity Model 84 series in 2013 after more than three decades of production. This new .380 from Chiappa is actually a Turkish transplant being produced for

CHIAPPA MC 14

Chiappa by the Girsan Machine & Light Weapon Industry Company in Giresun, Turkey. Girsan, which was established 21 years ago, produces a complete line of semi-autos ranging in caliber from .32 to .45, with the MC 14 being the latest .380 model for Chiappa (which also sells Girsan's 9mm M 9).

Producing a full-capacity .380 ACP pistol requires a double-stack magazine, and the Chiappa's mag holds 13 rounds. That is almost double the capacity of the majority of .380 ACP semi-autos on the market today. The big tradeoff, of course, is size. The MC 14 uses an aluminum alloy frame and a profiled, extruded steel slide, and it weighs in at a hefty 24 ounces unloaded. The Chiappa is by no means a "big gun," but by modern .380 standards it is larger than most at 6.8 inches in length, 5.17 inches in height and 1.34 inches in width.

Easily the size of many subcompact 9mm pistols, the MC 14 has heft, fills the hand and points naturally. The 24-ounce carry weight in itself helps reduce felt recoil and speeds up sight reacquisition. The dovetailed white-dot rear and front sights are easy to pick up, and the DA/SA trigger is full figured for

1. Durable steel slide.
2. Stainless barrel.
3. Heavily tensioned recoil spring around the guide rod.
4. Aluminum frame.
5. DA/SA trigger with a 0.31-inch SA pull.
6. One of the two 13-round magazines included with the MC 14 handgun.



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easy control, with a long 1.187-inch DA stroke and short, 0.31-inch SA pull. The SA trigger pull exhibits moderate stacking and has 0.125 inches of overtravel. Not bad.

The MC 14's triggerguard is squared off like later versions of the Beretta 84, the thumb safety is ambidextrous and the rounded, serrated hammer spur, though small, is easy to thumb cock. And for left-handed shooters, the MC 14's magazine release is reversible.

The gun's short-recoil, locked-breech design is simple and reliable, and field stripping is quick via a disassembly release button on the left side of the frame and a rotating disassembly latch on the right. After rotating the lever 90 degrees clockwise, the slide, barrel and recoil assembly pull forward off the frame. That's it. No tools or loose parts. The MC 14 uses a single, heavily tensioned recoil spring around the guide rod to further reduce recoil, but it does add to the slide manipulation effort when chambering a round or clearing the gun.

The cold-hammer-forged, 3.82-inch barrel is polished and hard-chrome plated for appearance and durability. Overall, the MC 14 is well built with a precise frame-to-slide fit. Turkish armasmakers on the whole do fine work, and the MC 14 in its basic matte black finish is a well-built pistol that is easy to operate and quickly get into action.

The trigger pull on the test sample averaged 8.2 pounds in DA (for the first shot), which is considerably less than a Walther PPK/S and many other DA/SA semi-autos. SA trigger pull averaged a very smooth 4.5 pounds. It can be carried decocked with the safety on or cocked and locked; in either condition the trigger

is disengaged and the firing pin blocked when the thumb safety is engaged.

The magazine release is easy to hit and the empty mag drops cleanly. On the reload, the slide release, which is oversized (by .380 standards), makes it easier to thumb down and chamber the first round. It is also in closer proximity to the grips and thumb safety than most, so there is less of a reach. Overall, the Chiappa has a very clean exterior, nicely melded slide and frame contours and a man-sized, whole-hand grip with the little finger supported by the magazine's floorplate extension.

Ammunition choices for the range test were a mix of traditional Sellier & Bellot 92-grain FMJ, one of the most commonly used brands of .380 (9mm Browning Court) hardball ammo in the world, and two modern brands of defensive ammunition, Liberty's unique 50-grain, lead-free, reduced-recoil Civil Defense,

The MC 14 can be fired in double action for the first round, with subsequent shots in single action, or you can cock the hammer and fire in single action. At the range, the gun was easy to handle, and it ran flawlessly with all ammo types.



The hammer-fired Chiappa MC 14 has dovetailed, white-dot sights that are large and very easy to acquire under a variety of lighting situations.

Caliber:	.380 ACP
Barrel:	3.82 inches
OA Length:	6.8 inches
Weight:	24 ounces (empty)
Grips:	Black plastic
Sights:	White dot front and rear
Action:	DA/SA
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	13+1
MSRP:	\$449



4 MC 14 CARRY RIGS

The pocket carry issue with the MC 14 comes down to the longer, wider grips required for the double-stack magazine. It is a gun best suited to carry in a belt holster. By comparison, the new Glock 42, also fairly large for a .380, is just slightly smaller, 0.44 inches less in slide length, 1.04 inches in height and almost half an inch narrower.

1 AUTO-QUICK: For carrying the new Chiappa .380, the best rig I found was Bianchi Frontier Gunleather's new Auto-Quick model. The holster only surrounds the middle of the frame and triggerguard, so barrel length is not a factor here. The Auto-Quick's design puts the wearer's belt through loops on the front of

the pouch (rather than behind it like traditional Yaqui slide styles), so the gun and holster are held closer to the waistline for better concealment. (frontiergunleather.com; 877-877-4704)

2 N82: The N82 Tactical's original N82 holster is a unique design that uses a clear, injection-molded plastic pouch mounted to a synthetic skirt sandwiched over a neoprene liner and a

soft suede backing that rests against the wearer's body. (n82tactical.com; 336-237-1943)

3 COZY PARTNER: The DeSantis Cozy Partner is an excellent IWB rig with snap closure straps for easily securing the rig to the wearer's belt. It has a slight forward cant for a smooth draw and the heavy leather throat makes reholstering easy. (desantisholster.com; 800-424-1236)

4 ELITE BCH: The thinnest and lightest IWB there is comes from Elite Survival Systems. The BCH 7 fits the MC 14 perfectly, and its ballistic nylon construction barely adds any width to the gun. The steel belt clip keeps the rig firmly in place. (866-340-2778; elitesurvival.com)



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CHIAPPA MC 14

PERFORMANCE		
CHIAPPA MC 14 .380 ACP		
LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
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Liberty 50 Civil Defense	1,570	2.20
Sellier & Bellot 92 FMJ	918	1.95

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 10 YARDS.

which are almost weightless in the magazine, and Barnes Bullets' heavy-hitting 80-grain TAC-XPD all-copper, low-recoil hollow points (HP). The latter two are newer tactical self-defense rounds and low-recoil ammo can be problematic in some semi-autos. Not so with the MC 14, however, which seems to shoot anything you put through it. At the range, there were no failures to feed, no jams, and every shot was in the 10 or X-ring from a combat distance of 10 yards.

The test target was a Law Enforcement Targets B-27 cardboard silhouette set up in front of a Target Shooting Solutions 36-inch-diameter bullet trap. Temperature was a sunny but frosty 33 degrees with a 15 mph crosswind. All shots were fired off-hand using a Weaver stance. The lightweight, high-velocity Liberty DCP clocked an impressive 1,570 feet per second (fps) average from the 3.75-inch barrel. The Barnes 80-grain TAC-XPD flew at 908 fps and the 92-grain Sellier & Bellot cleared the ProChrono traps at 918 fps.

Every round fired was a 5-point hit, with the closest group from Barnes TAC-EXP measuring 1.27 inches in the 10 and X. Sellier & Bellot printed a 1.95-inch group in the 10 and X, and Liberty produced a slightly wider arc over the 10- and X-ring at 2.2 inches from center to center. There were seven X bullseyes out of 15 shots, with the remaining rounds in the 10-ring.

EVERYDAY DEFENDER

The MC 14 handles remarkably well, the safety is quick to set or release, the slide drops with light pressure on the release and the white-dot sights are easy to acquire. Recoil with standard Sellier & Bellot 92-grain FMJs was modest compared to .380s with lighter carry weights. With a suggested retail of \$449, it isn't even a big investment for a semi-auto that is built to offer significantly greater capacity, a DA/SA trigger, durable finish and respectable accuracy. In every respect the Chiappa MC 14 hits the mark on features that make this older, heavier, feature-laden semi-auto something an old dog can rejoice in shooting. For more information, visit chiappafirearms.com.

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GLOCK'S HOT SHOTS



**How Two Wonder Women
take GLOCK Perfection
to the highest level!**

BY ANDRE' M. DALL'AU

In the past few years, Team Glock has traveled the globe to show that American

competitive shooters can stand toe to toe—and win—against the best shooters in the world. From Florida to California, Jamaica to

Germany, Italy to Norway and New Zealand to the Netherlands, the dynamic duo of Tori Nonaka and Michelle Viscusi make winning look easy.

Tori Nonaka is a young phenom who first shot with her dad at the age of three. She attended the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit's Action Shooting Junior Clinic, which gave her a great foundation and deepened her desire for shooting competitively. In 2011, at 15 years old, Tori joined Team Glock.

Since then, Tori has competed in various shooting disciplines, including

the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA), Steel Challenge, the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC), the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA), the Bianchi Cup and the Glock Sport Shooting Federation (GSSF). Some of Tori Nonaka's early wins include the titles of USPSA National Limited-10 Juniors Champion, the U.S. Steel National Super Junior title and IDPA National Junior Champion in 2010.

Dream Season

In 2014, Team GLOCK attended the inaugural Fun Gun 101 European Championship held in Italy, where Tori won the Overall Production division as well as Overall Lady in Open, Limited, Production and .22 Rimfire Optical (European Champion Lady) classifications. Team Glock then traveled to the

Netherlands for the European Steel Challenge Championship, where Nonaka took High Lady again in Open, Standard and Rimfire divisions. Upon returning to the United States, Nonaka won High Lady at the 2014 USPSA Area 3 Championship in the Limited Class.

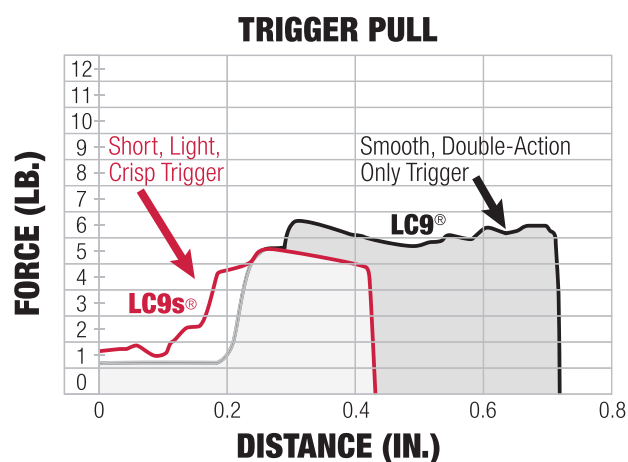
"In my competition, most chose speed while I chose accuracy. It was accuracy that won out this time," Nonaka noted in describing her winning strategy for the highly competitive event.

During the Area 4 Championship in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Nonaka secured the High Lady title for that difficult competition as well. "The match was well designed, with no-shoot targets and difficult shooting positions," said Nonaka. "I like the challenge of determining when to speed up or slow down depending on the difficulty level of the target."

In the following weeks, Nonaka won

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Team Glock's
Tori Nonaka
takes aim with
her long-slide
G17L in 9mm.

“As a new year of competitions approaches, the ladies of Team Glock are looking to continually improve and keep having fun by winning match after match...”

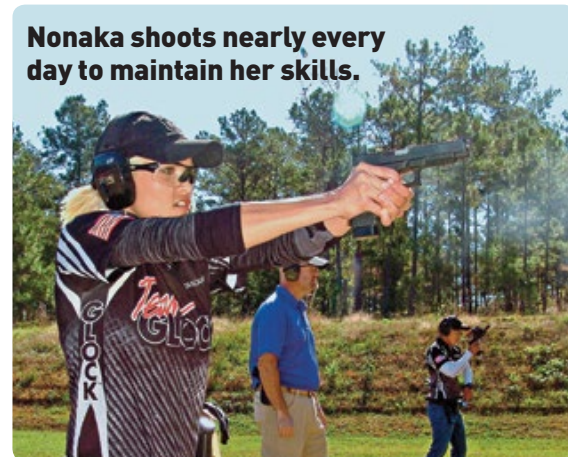
High Lady at the USPSA Area 7 match and at the Georgia State Championship. In her own words, she attacked the course “with greater determination to be as fast and accurate as possible,” which resulted in 211 Alpha hits and another penalty-free match.

Nonaka once again captured the USPSA Lady's Championship at the 2014 USPSA Nationals, winning the Limited Class and B Division national titles over the course of 27 tough stages. This was a repeat of her 2013 achievement.

The final gem in Team Glock's 2014 crown was earned at the Olympics of action shooting, the World Shoot XVII. Nonaka, as part of Team USA, took home the silver from the IPSC event, which is held every three years against thousands of shooters from countries all over the world. Nonaka used her Glock 35 and earned second place in the Ladies Standard division for Team USA.

Nonaka noted, “I have shot two World Shoots and have collected two individual silver and two team gold medals against the top competition in the world. Congratulations to all the other great women who shot a superb match.”

Nonaka shoots nearly every day to maintain her skills.



Trained For Perfection

Michelle Viscusi has been seen as a contestant on *Top Shot* and *3-Gun Nation*. Her shooting career began at the age of 21, as a member of the Army National Guard. Viscusi enjoyed her military training and served as a military police officer with the 856th Military Police Company. In the middle of a year-and-a-half deployment working as part of a joint counter-narcotics taskforce run out of Arizona's Fort Huachuca, she was selected to be on The History Channel's hit series *Top Shot*. After the show ended, Michelle Viscusi realized that she wanted to take her competitive shooting to the next level.

According to Viscusi, “On *Top Shot*, I started shooting successfully against competitors with much more experience, and I realized I could become a serious shooter.” As a result, she joined Team Glock and now uses her 11 years as a competitive gymnast, military veteran and seasoned competitive shooter to compete head to head against increasingly talented international shooters.

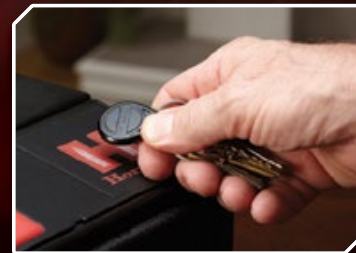
When asked about her plans after the recent birth of her daughter, Viscusi noted, “My plan is to continue a great competitive year and to honestly get out and strictly focus on shooting. Even during my pregnancy and after the birth of my daughter, I made it to three to four matches that are put on each week near my home, and I also practice as

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Michelle Viscusi does a dry run of every course of fire before the match starts.


much as I can. Although I moved an hour away from my practice range, I am really focusing on the weekly matches. I will also be trying to make it to more competitions next year. I plan to maintain physical fitness, a positive attitude and being the best I can be."

When I asked Viscusi about how she maintained her training during her pregnancy, she said, "I adjusted my practice during pregnancy by strictly dry firing. I also practiced my draws, reloads and movements on a daily basis."

As she ramps up her training regimen, Michelle Viscusi's proven advice is worth noting for all types of shooters. "I would say to any shooter, not just women, to get out to the range and shoot as much as you possibly can. If you're stuck at home because you have children or other obligations, there's no reason why you can't get out your belt and gun and dry fire. If you want it badly enough, you will find ways to practice and be the best."

When asked which was her favorite pistol, Viscusi answered the same as teammate Tori Nonaka. "My favorite pistol to shoot would be my Glock 34," Viscusi said. "Even before I had gotten picked up by the Glock pistol team, this was my go-to gun. With the longer barrel and longer sight radius, this gun is perfect for what I shoot. It's the most comfortable fit for my hands and is definitely my number-one choice."

Bright Future

As a new year of competitions approaches, the ladies of Team Glock are looking to continually improve and keep having fun by winning match after match and championship after championship. For more information on Team Glock and its matches, visit us.glock.com. 

Editor's Note: To see a video of Team Glock in action, visit personaldefenseworld.com.

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PHASE 5'S COMPACT THUNDER

5.56 CQC: Small as far as rifle-cal. pistols go and big in the “striking good looks” and reliability departments.

BY RICHARD L. JOHNSON



The Phase 5 CQC Pistol in 5.56mm NATO is a compact platform constructed of 7075 forged aluminum receivers. Its 7075-T6 billet aluminum buffer tube sports a foam pad constructed of durable nitrile rubber and a mil-spec end plate and castle nut.

“FROM A RELIABILITY
PERSPECTIVE, MY GUN
RAN PERFECTLY WITH A VARIETY
OF AMMUNITION
AND MAGAZINES.”

ZZ TOP sang about a “Sharp Dressed Man.” If ZZ Top were to write a similar song about guns, the Phase 5 CQC would be the perfect choice to star in the music video. The CQC has good looks to spare, but just like a well-appointed man, the gun better have the performance to back up the look.

Phase 5 was founded to solve problems, and whether you need a specialized pistol for self-defense or range fun, the CQC might be your solution. The CQC is an AR-style pistol chambered in 5.56mm/.223 Rem. The handgun has a 7.5-inch barrel with a 1-in-7-inch twist. It uses an M4 barrel extension with M4 feed ramps. Made of 41v50 chromoly steel, the barrel is button rifled.

The CQC is one of the shorter AR pistol packages that I have had the opportunity to shoot. From buffer tube to muzzle device, the overall length of the gun is 24 inches. Unloaded, the gun weighs 5.2 pounds.

● RIFLE-CAL PROTECTOR

A proprietary Lo-Pro Slope Nose Quad Rail comes standard on the Phase 5 pistol. The rail accepts standard Picatinny mount accessories such as weapon lights and laser aiming devices. I found the forend felt thinner than many other rail systems. Additionally, the quad rail seemed to have removed all sharp edges, making it one of the most comfortable railed forends I’ve handled recently.

The buffer tube is made of 7075-T6 billet aluminum and comes with a foam cheekpad

that covers the rear half of the assembly. The Phase 5 logo is emblazoned on the left side of the tube.

Another interesting feature is the Winter Trigger Guard (WTG). The WTG is oversized to allow for shooting with gloved hands. However, instead of merely bowing down for a larger opening for the trigger, the WTG adds visual interest by giving the guard a flattened “W” appearance. The look is distinctive and the bottom of the guard sports the Phase 5 logo.

Also compatible with winter gloves is the Battle Latch Charging Handle Assembly (BL/CHA) used on this pistol. Compared to standard charging handles, the BL/CHA is larger and significantly easier to grip with or without gloves. According to Phase 5, the handle is beefed up to handle regular abuse, yet still retains a low enough profile to work with larger optical systems.

Sights do not come standard on the CQC pistol, but Phase 5 does sell them separately. My pistol came with a set of ARMS #71L flip-up sights. These sights are spring-loaded, and pop into position when a wide button is depressed on the rear of their base. The rear sight

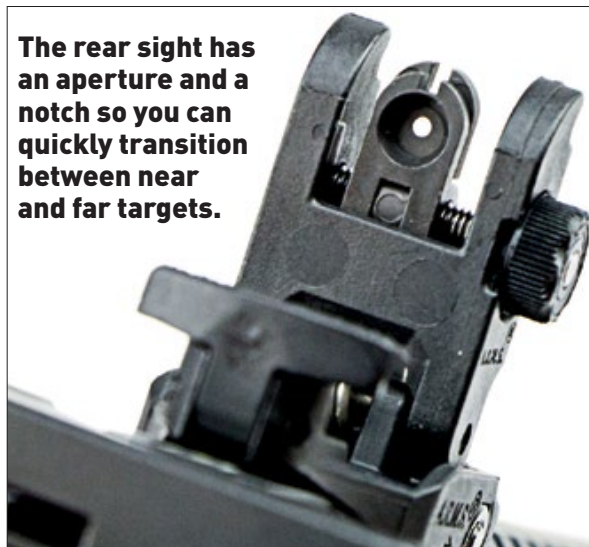
Too short for some shooters, the buffer tube can be used as another point of contact to help steady the semi-auto pistol.



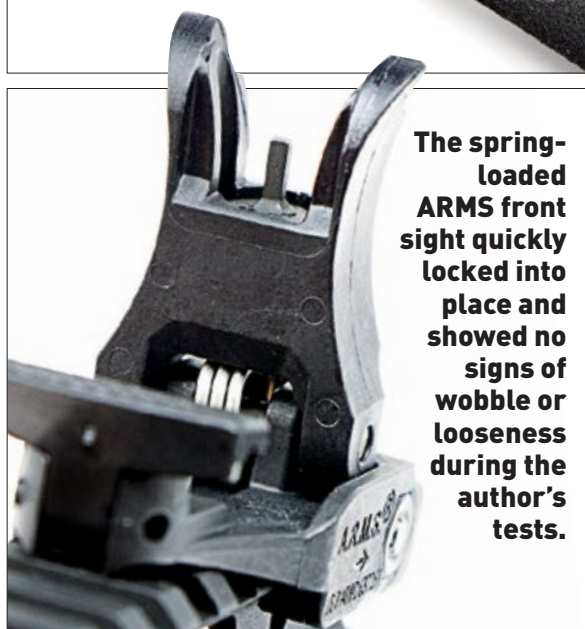
Phase 5 uses a quad-rail with an angular cut to give the gun a unique look.



The buffer tube features Phase 5's logo and clearly labels the weapon.



The rear sight has an aperture and a notch so you can quickly transition between near and far targets.



The spring-loaded ARMS front sight quickly locked into place and showed no signs of wobble or looseness during the author's tests.

has a typical round aperture, but adds a pistol-style notch at the top of the sight. If desired, a shooter could use the typical aperture for longer-distance shots and the notch for closer ones.

Phase 5 is a California-based manufacturer, and the company is sympathetic to the plight of its neighbors who find gun rights curtailed by state laws. In response to the legal realities of the company's customers, the CQC pistol ships with a "bullet button" installed.

For those unfamiliar with a bullet button, it is a device that replaces a normal mag-release button and prevents the magazine from being changed without a tool. The name comes from the fact that the nose of a rifle round can serve as the tool and allow the shooter to swap mags. Normal AR magazines are used in the gun, and are not modified or damaged by the government-mandated device.

● AT THE RANGE

I had the CQC pistol on the range for three days, and let three additional shooters run the gun. A significant amount of the ammo shot was a mix of 55-grain

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“A QUICK SWAP OF THE BULLET BUTTON FOR A STANDARD MAGAZINE RELEASE AND YOU HAVE A ROCKIN’ AR PISTOL FOR THE RANGE...”

SPECIFICATIONS	
PHASE 5 CQC	
Caliber:	5.56mm NATO/.223 Rem
Barrel:	7.5 inches
OA Length:	24 inches
Weight:	5.2 pounds
Grips:	Polymer
Sights:	None
Action:	Semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$1,250

.223 Rem and 5.56mm ball ammo from various manufacturers. We also ran premium Hornady and CorBon ammo through the gun to test for accuracy and for velocity measurements.

There were no malfunctions with any of the ammunition. All of the premium rounds turned in good groups at 25 yards. One of my personal favorites, the 55-grain Hornady TAP loads, gave the best performance with multiple sub-2-inch groups. The best five-shot group also came from the Hornady TAP, at 1.62 inches.

As is to be expected, velocity measurements from a 7.5-inch barrel are significantly less than from a 16-inch (or longer) barrel. Even so, all of the loads averaged velocities above 2,100 feet per second (fps). The CorBon DPX load uses an all-copper projectile and was the fastest of the premium loads, measuring 2,265 fps on average. This works out to be more than 600 foot-pounds of energy.

Recoil is not heavy considering we were shooting a rifle round from a pistol. However, muzzle blast was substantial. This is not unique to the Phase 5 pistol. It has been my experience that shooting .223 Rem or 5.56mm from a short-barreled gun results in a great deal of noise and a significant pressure wave. I find that the blast does not impact my desire

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PHASE 5 CQC



During testing, ASC stainless steel and aluminum mags were 100-percent reliable.

to continue shooting, but it can annoy the guy shooting next to you.

If you consider using any short-barreled AR pistol or rifle for self-defense, I strongly encourage you to consider some type of sound suppression. Adding a sound suppressor to the gun does require additional paperwork and expense, but what is the value of your hearing? If a suppressor is unobtainable, at least consider storing a pair of electronic earmuffs with the gun. If you need to grab the gun, you can don the hearing protection quickly and preserve both your hearing and tactical awareness should you be forced to shoot.

As I expected, the gun is front-heavy. I have found this to be the norm with AR-style pistols. However, the gun feels well balanced in the hands when shooting with a support hand on the forend.

Magpul's 30-round PMAGs ran well in the Phase 5 pistol. The author's wife, shown here, had no problems handling Phase 5's CQC during multiple outings to the local shooting range.



PRODUCT QUICK HIT

LOCK IN YOUR GLOCK



Learning firearms basics can require patience and practice, and for many new shooters this can be frustrating and intimidating. However, just as bicycles have training wheels, so too are there devices to help the new or old shooter improve their skills or unlearn bad habits.

LOCK STEADY: The Gill Arm Lock from Gill Firearms promises to help shooters deal with the problem of

wrist lock and position to help tame recoil, improve shooter accuracy and comfort, and address the issue of cycling problems when "limp wristing." The arm lock installs very easily and attaches to the rear of a Glock pistol via a pin at the base of the grip. A padded extension arches around the top of the forearm and forces the shooter's arm to remain straight with their wrist locked forward while aiming and firing.

TAME RECOIL: The effect when firing with the Gill Arm Lock installed is that the recoil is significantly mitigated and absorbed, and muzzle flip is almost eliminated. This allows for more accurate and faster shooting while keeping your sights on target. The Gill Arm Lock is very lightweight and made from flat black Zytel with a Sorbothane shock-absorbing pad. It is adjustable for cant and windage.

This device can in no way

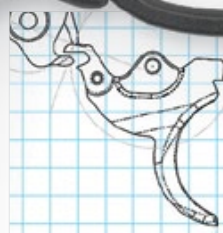
be used as a shoulder stock during operation, so installing it meets ATF requirements. The Gill Arm Lock is currently available for Glock pistols (G17, G19, G20, G22, G23, G25, G31, G32, G34, G35, G21 Gen3), and I tried the unit out on both Gen3 and Gen 4 models without experiencing a single problem. *CH* also learned that Gill Arm Locks for hard hitting .45 1911 pistols are coming soon. (gillfirearms.com; 813-360-1231)

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PHASE 5 CQC



The buffer tube is too short for me to use as an improvised stock, though two of the other shooters were able to use the gun in that way. For me, I was easily able to get a cheek weld on the buffer tube's foam pad and shoot the gun without shoulder contact.

The ARMS flip-up sights were very easy to work with, and they reliably popped up without hesitation throughout the days on the range. I found the circular aperture on the rear sight worked well for me at all distances, while another shooter found the notch on top of the rear sight worked best for him at closer ranges.

No magazines ship with the Phase 5 pistol. As it turns out, I had several new magazines from ASC on hand to run in the CQC. ASC makes a variety of stainless steel and aluminum AR magazines that have a self-lubricating finish and use chrome silicon springs with anti-tilt followers. With 10-, 20- and 30-round ASC magazines, the CQC ran like a top. We also tested the gun with 30-round Magpul PMAG magazines, and found they ran 100 percent also.

PERFORMANCE		
PHASE 5 CQC		
LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
CorBon .223 Rem 55 DPX	2,265	2.00
Hornady .223 Rem 55 TAP	2,226	1.62
Hornady .223 Rem 55 V-MAX	2,142	2.25

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FEET PER SECOND (FPS) BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.




The controls on the CQC are similar to any standard AR's. The use of the bullet button (above) slows down reloading, but it can be replaced in "friendlier" states.

FINAL PHASE

There are an increasing number of AR-style pistols on the market, and consumers have a great deal of choice when deciding which to buy. So, should you consider the Phase 5 CQC?

From a reliability perspective, my gun ran perfectly with a variety of ammunition and magazines. The controls and sights all worked as well after three days of shooting as they did when the gun came out of the box. None of the pins, screws or parts showed any sign of movement or loosening during or after our shooting sessions.

From an aesthetic perspective, the CQC has enough stylistically that sets it apart from other AR-style pistols that are on the market. From the Slope Nose Quad Rail to the Winter Trigger Guard, you know that this pistol is different from the others you might take a look at. The finish was blemish free and the logos and engraving were all sharp and attractive.

I liked this gun a lot. If you live in a rights-restricted state that requires a "bullet button" and artificially reduced magazine capacity, the Phase 5 pistol may be one of your only options for purchase. But for those living in the "free" states, this pistol is definitely worth your consideration. A quick swap of the bullet button for a standard magazine release and you have a rockin' AR pistol for the range and personal defense. The base Phase 5 CQC pistol carries an MSRP of \$1,250. For more information, visit phase5wsi.com. 

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**Winchester
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Deluxe 11K**

**Put these air-powered warhorses into action
for your next CCW training session** **BY DENNIS ADLER**

My very first handgun was a World War II-era Model 1911, and I could not hit the broad side of a barn with it! Fortunately, there were very few barns where I lived in the Southern California desert, but there was this wonderful sand berm just outside of town that folks used as a shooting range on weekends, and it was there, over time, that I became

proficient with the 1911.

The cost of that training experience, even in the late 1960s, wasn't cheap. Over time, I improved motor skills and muscle memory by practicing draw, presentation and firing routines—exercises that include the swift but well-timed release of the thumb safety, placement of the trigger finger, activation of the slide

and magazine releases, reloading, releasing the slide and reacquiring the target after each shot. I wish back then that I knew what I know now and that there had been air pistols like the Umarex Colt Commander and Remington 1911 RAC. With these air guns I could have learned a lot for just pennies on the dollar!

In terms of training exercises, there

are numerous advantages to using 1911 live-action air pistols, as these duty-sized handguns operate the same way as a cartridge-firing Colt .45 ACP. Specific training regimens can be practiced with these “blowback” air pistols, right down to loading the magazine, chambering the first round and pulling the trigger. This also helps to improve skills such as trigger control and sight acquisition, particularly with this type of air pistol because the slide on the Umarex Colt Commander and Remington 1911 RAC actually functions with each shot. All that is missing is recoil, and you can see the results of your efforts with .177 BBs on your target for only pennies, rather than the cost of .45 ACP ammunition.

Gaining familiarity with a cartridge-firing pistol and its operation by using a perfectly matched air pistol is affordable and efficient, ideal for youth or remedial training, and there’s also just the plain fun of it. Once you shoot a live-action BB gun, it’s hard to stop until you run out of CO2, and, best of all, most top-quality 1911 models retail for less than \$150.

Classic Trainer

The Umarex Colt Commander and Remington 1911 RAC (both are manufactured in Taiwan and share identical features) are the most exact in detail and operation to a 1911. The Umarex and Remington models are fully licensed products and are accurate down to the smallest details. Closely duplicating the physical appearance, weight and balance of the cartridge-firing models, the Colt Commander and Remington 1911 RAC pistols operate with the power of a single 12-gram CO2 capsule contained within the magazine (rather than inserted separately into the grip frame). In addition to the CO2 capsule, the precisely sized 1911-style magazine also contains a channel for 18 precision steel .177-caliber BB rounds. Extra magazines can be purchased and used for tactical reloading drills on the range.

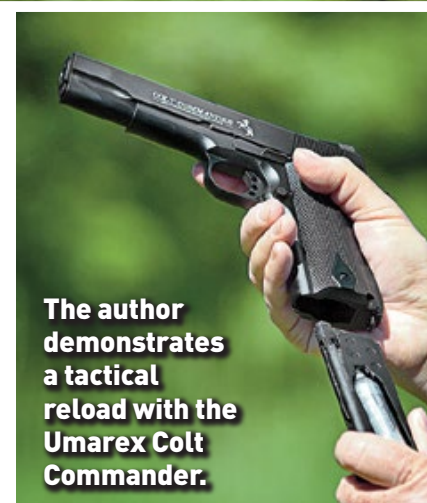
In a blowback-action air pistol, the CO2 capsule performs two functions, propelling a BB downrange at an average velocity of 325 feet per second (fps) and operating the recoil of the slide to recock the hammer and chamber the next BB. Each pistol’s all-metal construction (including the magazine) provides a hefty feel in the hand (32 ounces), approximating the weight of a real 1911.

The Umarex model, which has an MSRP of \$122, features a modern skeletonized trigger and Commander-style hammer, fixed front and rear white-



The Umarex Colt Commander airgun has all of the working features of a cartridge-firing Model 1911 pistol, including the thumb safety, beavertail grip safety and mag release.

“Specific training regimens can be practiced with these...air pistols, right down to loading the magazine, chambering the first round and pulling the trigger.”



The author demonstrates a tactical reload with the Umarex Colt Commander.

dot tactical sights, a checkered/raised mainspring housing, black diamond-checkered plastic grips, as well as a fully operating beavertail safety, thumb safety and slide release.

The Remington 1911 RAC, priced at \$129, features an early-style 1911 hammer and trigger, early-style front and rear sights and checkered, wood-finished grips. During WWI and WWII, Remington manufactured Colt Model 1911s to meet U.S. military demands, and today Remington makes its R1 series of 1911 models as well as lending its name to the air-pistol version. Both models have a military tether ring at the bottom of the backstrap. Every aspect of handling these 1911 air pistols is a training experience.

Warhorse Variants

There are also several special versions of the Colt 1911, including the KWC Tanfoglio Witness. The KWC Tanfoglio features a raised/checkered mainspring housing, an early-style Colt hammer and

original-style sights. The most interesting variation is an NRA Limited Edition 1911, which has all the features offered on the Umarex Colt Commander plus a special antiqued finish, the NRA logo and the Second Amendment written on the left side of the slide. This model retails for \$200. Finally there is the Blackwater tactical version with a dustcover accessory rail, skeletonized hammer and trigger and Blackwater stylized slide. Retail is also \$200. These models are identical in operation to the Colt and Remington and are available through Pyramyd Air.

One of the oldest names in air pistols is Crosman. This fabled American brand offers a full-action 1911 called the GI Model 1911BBb. This model also features a blowback action, however the Crosman is a unique design with a separate BB reservoir that holds 20 BBs delivered downrange at an average velocity of 450 fps. The exterior is based on the early 1911 GI-issued models and has a fixed rear sight and small early-style front

.177 AIR SUPREMACY



UMAREX COLT COMMANDER/REM 1911 RAC (PICTURED RIGHT)

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber ▶ .177
Barrel ▶ 5 inches
OA Length ▶ 8.5 inches
Weight ▶ 32 ounces
Action ▶ SA
Capacity ▶ 18 (BBs)
Average Velocity ▶ 325 fps
MSRP ▶ \$114 (Umarex)-\$90 (Rem)



CROSMAN GI 1911BBb

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber ▶ .177
Barrel ▶ 5 inches
OA Length ▶ 8.62 inches
Weight ▶ 30 ounces
Action ▶ DA/SA
Capacity ▶ 20 (BBs)
Average Velocity ▶ 450 fps
MSRP ▶ \$100



WINCHESTER MODEL 11K

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber ▶ .177
Barrel ▶ 5 inches
OA Length ▶ 8.625 inches
Weight ▶ 32 ounces
Action ▶ SA
Capacity ▶ 16 (BBs)
Average Velocity ▶ 410 fps
MSRP ▶ \$150

sight. Not quite as accurate in detail, the 1911BBb does not offer all of the working features of the Colt or Remington. Instead, it uses a different style magazine, a flat, smooth mainspring housing, an oversized DA/SA trigger and a non-functioning 1911-style thumb safety. Crosman adds a manual safety of its own design on the right side of the frame that is set and released by the trigger finger. With a suggested retail of \$100, the GI Model 1911BBb is also the cheapest.

The Winchester Model 11K, which is manufactured in Japan and licensed by Winchester, uses yet another variation of the blowback design. Priced at \$150, the Winchester 11K is the deluxe version with a bi-tone finish (matte black slide and matte cast alloy frame). The airgun features a traditional raised palm swell and beavertail grip safety, a full-sized thumb safety and slide release, an early-style hammer and a serrated trigger, all of which are brightly finished. The most important difference between the Daisy design and the Umarex 1911s is Winchester's traditional placement of the CO2 capsule in the grip frame and a separate stick-type carrier for BBs. Like the Crosman, the Winchester design eliminates the possibility of using the air pistol for tactical reload practice.

Airing It Out

To do a full training set, I decided to go old school and wear a World War Supply U.S. M7 shoulder holster (like William Holden wore in *The Wild Bunch*). Drawing the Remington air pistol from the shoulder rig, I went through the entire procedure, from loading the magazine to working the slide, setting the safety, holstering, drawing, releasing the safety, acquiring the target and firing. I also practiced magazine changes. I repeated these exercises with the Umarex Colt Commander using a Galco Combat Master belt holster. Doing these practice regimens will help anyone become familiarized with the proper handling and operation of a Model 1911.

With a target placed out at 25 feet, the accuracy of the Remington 1911 RAC and Umarex Colt Commander was consistent throughout five complete reloads (90 shots). The best average 10-shot group measured 1.87 inches with the Umarex Colt Commander. While the trigger pull is light and the recoil is nonexistent, this is still good training practice for handling 1911-platform pistols and reacquiring the sights quickly after the slide goes back into battery.

Training is essential for concealed carry. If a Colt Model 1911 was my

personal preference for a concealment sidearm, having one of these highly accurate Umarex 1911-style air pistols for practice drills would be an excellent low-cost option for any training regimen short of live ammunition target practice. With an average price of \$125, the cost of just five boxes of .45 ACP Winchester 230-grain full metal jacket (FMJ) ammunition would easily pay for one of these live-action air pistols! **CH**

Editor's Note:

Given the attention to details that go into blowback-action 1911 air pistols, they should be treated with the same respect as any cartridge-firing 1911 handgun with concerns to their carry, use and public display. Even from a modest distance, these adult airguns are difficult to distinguish from their cartridge-firing counterparts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Crosman

crosman.com; 800-724-7486

Pyramyd Air

pyramydair.com; 888-262-4867

Remington Air Guns

remingtonairguns.com; 877-387-6691

Umarex

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Winchester Air Rifles

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ABLAZING BASICS



Get faster on target, more accurate and more confident at MTG's Advanced Handgun course. **BY** DAVID BAHDE

Since 1994 Midwest Training Group has been holding classes in Illinois, Iowa and Idaho. Andy Kemp and Bob Houzenga are the principal instructors and both have been training shooters for decades. Both are longtime trainers for Massad Ayoob's Massad Ayoob Group. Houzenga is currently a chief of police with 36 years in law enforcement. He also holds six national titles and hundreds of state and local titles as a competitive shooter. Along with his teaching skills, he is a skilled pistol builder who makes state-of-the-art 1911 pistols and revolvers. Kemp brings over 40 years of shooting experience to the table. He has been a staff instructor for Massad Ayoob since the mid-'90s and is a staff trainer for John Farnham's Defense Training International. He is a Master class IDPA shooter and has trained civilians, law enforcement and the military.

Most of Massad Ayoob's classes are focused on the legal aspects of deadly force use. While some classes can include shooting, some students wanted a bit more trigger time. So Houzenga and Kemp created a companion school to the classroom-intensive courses called Advanced Handgun Skills. It is round-intensive and designed to hone your pistol skills. All of the tactics were removed, leaving only skills training. The idea was to focus on running the gun using tactics where necessary for clarification. With students shooting 1,500 rounds (or more) in two days, the course provides an opportunity to really hone the fundamentals of advanced shooting.

The Overview

This class is about building basic skill-sets using repetition, time constraints

and a bit of pressure. Everything you take away from Advanced Handgun Skills can transfer to most any of the preferred tactics taught these days. Midwest Training Group offers classes focused on tactics as well, but take this course first and then come back for those classes even better prepared.

Day One: Kemp and Houzenga bring a wealth of experience and open minds. There was zero time spent denigrating other schools, systems or styles. Sharing my disdain for dogma, they both feel you should be familiar with all of the current shooting styles. Each is covered along with their strengths and weaknesses. Class time amounted to about an hour of discussion followed by trigger time that did not stop until the end of the class.

After a few minutes of slow fire to get warmed up, we performed a timed draw, placing one round in the A-zone. This was followed by a draw to a six-round "Bill Drill." Times were recorded to be compared at the end of the following day.

Houzenga, like many experienced trainers, focuses on trigger manipulation. Firing a revolver that was upside down using his little finger, he placed six shots on top of each other at 7 yards, stating, "It's all in the trigger." There was also a strong emphasis on accuracy. Using IPSC targets, the A-zone was the standard without regard to speed. Drawing and shooting quickly was encouraged, but never at the expense of accurate hits. While speed was strongly emphasized, this is not a competition school; the end result was always multiple hits that were accurate and placed in the upper thoracic portion of the target.

Moving to the draw, Kemp and Houzenga focused on smooth, controlled motion with as little excess movement



Bob Houzenga demonstrates firing one-handed, essential for self-defense trainees.

"Class time amounted to about an hour of discussion followed by trigger time that did not stop until the end of the class."

as possible. Getting the pistol up and on target quickly while accessing the sights as soon as possible allows for fast and accurate hits. Sighting was important, but a "perfect" sight picture was not required. Spending time on a "flash" front sight and shooting "out of the notch" resulted in some impressive draw times with dead-center hits.

Reloads were covered focusing on empty loads or speed loads, but no "tactical" loads were used. Every drill was fired to slide lock, allowing for about as much reloading as possible. If you loaded 17 rounds, you fired them all—no doubles, triples or singles. The idea is to get the pistol moving in your hand under

The Advanced Handgun Skills course helps students learn to shoot accurately from various realistic positions with both their strong and weak hands.



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WHAT TO PACK

FIREARMS: Bring a pistol you know works, can run hard and you enjoy shooting repeatedly. Typical carry pistols like Glock G19s, Smith & Wesson M&P9s or Springfield Armory XD's are great. You can bring a single-stack pistol, but expect to perform a ton of reloads, and students should bring at least five magazines.



The author's Sig P226 SAO ran flawlessly throughout the high-round-count course.

HOLSTERS: The course focuses on drawing a lot, making a good outside-the-waistband (OWB) holster and double magazine pouch essential. Three double-stack magazines will also do just fine. You can wear eight magazines on your belt if you want, but it is not necessary. Tactical rigs are also fine, but flimsy holsters are not going to work here. I used both my Safariland rig and my Strategic Tactical Group Kydex, and they worked perfectly during the course.

DON'T FORGET: Students will shoot 1,500-plus rounds during this class. Bring a cleaning kit and some oil since shooting as much as 800 rounds in a day will get your semi-auto pistol heavily fouled rather quickly.

recoil, and nothing does that like rapid fire. It allows you to work out the best grip and tends to highlight any weaknesses. By the end of the day we were all shooting faster with better accuracy out to distances of 15 yards.

Day Two: After some warming up, it was time to move to single-hand shooting. Often missing in training courses, it is a critical aspect to gunfighting. Numerous shootings have proven this technique may be required. Most of the day involved shooting single-handed from either side. Time remained a factor, but accuracy was critical. Firing rapid fire really hones your grip and ability to track the sights. After getting well-placed hits on target at 10 yards with one hand, two-handed shooting seemed rather easy.

Natural point of aim (POA) is often


seen in rifle training, but it applies to pistols as well. Where a stance is possible, using POA allows you to get your pistol on target quickly and accurately. Moving to the line, we established our stance, closed our eyes and then drew and fired, repeatedly. Having done this before, it is a great drill, but doing it this much was really helpful, and performing it with Bill Drills was even better. Being able to draw your pistol and put six rounds rapid fire into the A-zone with your eyes closed is a huge confidence builder.

The rest of the day was about putting all your skills together, culminating in a qualification course. Not always seen in civilian training, it is a great stress inducer. It's always amazing to see your reaction to the simple stress of having to "qualify" with your pistol. It was also not easy as it involved time constraints, lots of single-handed shooting, a very tight scoring zone and ranges out to 25 yards (20 yards at this range).

After doing some shooting from the ground, it was time to gauge improvement. The timed draw and "Bill Drill" from the previous day were repeated. In most cases times were cut in half or better. My draw time went down by 0.3 seconds, and my Bill Drill time by over a second. There was little doubt we had grown much faster while retaining solid accuracy.

Hardware Tested

I brought close to 2,000 rounds of Federal American Eagle 124-grain ammo to the course, and over 1,800 of them were expended. It was important to clean our guns. On day one, I split my time between my Springfield Armory 9mm 1911 and my Sig Sauer P226 SAO. Both were flawless and represent my two favorite pistols. They have proven accurate and reliable under a number of conditions. After a couple of hours of reloading the single-stack 1911, having an 18-round magazine was convenient for sure, but I would not hesitate to take this class again with a single-stack pistol.

This class allows you to really hone in on trigger manipulation, sight alignment and solid control of your pistol while firing. The idea is to make these skill-sets almost second nature, allowing you to focus completely on the tactics and situation at hand. There is nothing earth shattering here, it is just the basics. But you get the chance to really get good at them, have a great time and learn from incredibly well-qualified instructors. For more information, call 563-259-2123 or visit midwesttraininggroup.net. 

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OFFICER'S MODEL



CHRISTENSEN 1911 COMBO

Have it your way as
Christensen Arms
forges old with new on
the classic warhorse
.45 ACP platform.

BY CLAIR REES
PHOTOS BY STEVE WOODS

JOHN BROWNING'S MODEL 1911 remains one of the most popular, if not the most popular, handguns of all time. It was the United States' official sidearm through WWI, WWII, the Korean conflict and countless other wars and "police actions" around the globe. While replaced by the 9mm Beretta some time ago (at the behest of NATO), it remains in service with diehard units who simply refuse to give "old slabsides" up.

My love affair with the 1911 began when the Army taught me to shoot, field strip (blindfolded) and maintain one. As a defensive handgun it has no equal—plunk a .45-caliber bullet into an assailant's center mass and it's game over. A properly tuned and maintained 1911-style pistol can be depended on when the chips are down.

Because of its deserved popularity, 1911-style pistols remain in high demand. I have no idea how many different manufacturers offer their versions of this famous pistol, but the number is considerable. I own (or have owned) 1911s made by more than a dozen companies, and most gave yeoman service. Now there's a new game in town.

○ **WARHORSE UPGRADE**

Christensen Arms is well known for custom rifles with lightweight, highly accurate barrels. It now offers a selection of quality 1911s, all with strikingly good looks. What's more, you can select certain parts to create a true custom handgun.

Two Christensen Arms pistols I recently evaluated include an Officer Model with a handsome Burnt Bronze Cerakote finish on the frame and a full-sized Government Model equipped with the optional Damascus steel slide.

CHRISTENSEN 1911s

The guns are very tightly fitted thanks to Christensen Arms' master pistolsmith, who manages to assemble two or three 1911s each day. His attention to detail is obvious. These guns aren't mass-produced, but instead are painstakingly assembled by someone who knows exactly what he is doing.

One problem with super-tight-fitting guns is that it takes a lot of *oomph* to cycle the slides until the gun is broken in. That's in spite of the deep, imaginatively designed cocking serrations on the slide.

The slide stop on the full-sized gun is slightly extended, allowing you greater leverage when disengaging the slide. Besides looking sharp, the cocking serrations on the Damascus slide provide a positive grip.

While the triggers are adjustable, my sample guns had triggers that broke cleanly at 3.5 pounds and an even 4 pounds. That was fine with me, so I attempted no further refinement.

BREAKING THEM IN

Another issue with a tightly fitting slide is that the guns may not feed dependably as they come from the box. They need to loosen up a bit before they'll perform as they should. Christensen Arms suggests using 230-grain ball ammunition for the recommended 400- to 500-round break-in period. I happened to have a copious supply of Black Hills 185-grain jacketed hollow-point (JHP) loads on hand, so that's what I used for testing. I also followed my



1. Both pistols feature Novak tritium night sights that are dovetailed into the slide. 2. The match-grade barrels are fit by hand for superb accuracy. 3. The rear sights have tritium inserts for low-light shooting. 4. The smooth magazine well offers fast reloads.

usual practice of firing 30 to 40 rounds through each gun as it came from the box, without any cleaning or other prep.

Both Christensen Arms guns produced two stovepipe malfunctions right off the bat while digesting the first 20 rounds. That was mildly disappointing, but not unexpected in guns fitted this tightly. I would never depend on a new defensive gun until it had been thoroughly broken in.

After putting 40 rounds through each gun, I gave them a thorough cleaning and (very) light lubrication. That did the trick. There were still a couple of misfeeds, but by the time each gun had digested another 40 rounds, both pistols were behaving beautifully.

After getting the two guns to feed and fire with regularity, I test-fired them off-hand at 25 yards. Both guns felt good in my hands, and recoil wasn't a problem. The short-barreled Officer's Model had no trouble producing 2.6-inch five-shot



The Government Model's Damascus slide has distinctive, easy-to-grip serrations for easier racking.

"If you want a stunning, eye-catching 1911, this is a great way to go."

SPECIFICATIONS	
CHRISTENSEN ARMS 1911 GOVERNMENT MODEL	
Caliber:	.45 ACP
Barrel:	5 inches
OA Length:	8.63 inches
Weight:	35.5 ounces
Grips:	Carbon fiber
Sights:	Novak tritium night
Action:	SA
Finish:	Damascus
Capacity:	7+1
MSRP:	\$4,800 (as tested)

SPECIFICATIONS	
CHRISTENSEN ARMS 1911 OFFICER'S MODEL	
Caliber:	.45 ACP
Barrel:	3.5 inches
OA Length:	7.13
Weight:	30.1 ounces
Grips:	Carbon fiber
Sights:	Novak tritium night
Action:	SA
Finish:	Burnt Bronze Cerakote frame, stainless slide
Capacity:	6+1
MSRP:	\$3,400 (as tested)

groups, while the Government Model with the Damascus slide shaved that to just 1.6 inches. These guns performed as great as they looked.

The Novak tritium sights were easy to see and have the advantage of being visible after dark. The front and rear of the grip frames were stippled to provide a no-slip purchase. The hand-laid carbon fiber grips on the full-sized model added some panache, but were too smooth for



The Officer's Model came with a contrasting and durable Cerakote-finished frame.

my taste. The VZ G10 grips on the Officer's Model were sharply checkered, providing a firmer purchase and making the gun that much easier to control under fire.

I particularly liked the Burnt Bronze Cerakote finish on the frame of the Officer's Model. You have your choice of Cerakote colors, but this finish suited me just fine. That's just one of the options available when you order a Christensen Arms gun. These two Christensen Arms pistols are of obvious high quality, and



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CHRISTENSEN 1911s



Christensen's 1911s were easy to control during testing.

strikingly handsome in the bargain. Each gun is supplied with a pair of Christensen Arms magazines, along with a high-quality bushing wrench made of aircraft-grade aluminum. It's worth noting that the instruction booklet accompanying each gun is very thorough and well written.

Whether you want to shell out \$1,400 for the Damascus slide add-on (for any of the models offered) depends on your pocket-book, desire and taste in firearms. If you want a stunning, eye-catching 1911, this is a great way to go.

CUSTOM OPTIONS

When you order a pistol from Christensen Arms, you can buy a basic "plain Jane" version or add as many bells and whistles as you want or can afford. For instance, a basic Government 1911 with a stainless steel slide, an aluminum mainspring housing, adjustable trigger and tritium night sights lists for \$2,395. The same gun with a titanium frame sells for \$3,195.

Adding an ambidextrous safety will set you back another \$40, while a Cerakote frame goes for \$75. Cerakoting the slide adds \$50 to the total. Carbon grips cost \$140, while specifying a Damascus slide runs an additional \$1,400. Bear in mind that these parts will be expertly hand-fitted by Christensen Arms' master pistolsmith, so you're basically getting a custom gun no matter how many custom parts you specify.

There are six different models you can use for your customized platform. These include the Government and Officer models I tested, along with Commander, Tactical Government and Tactical Commander variations. The Tactical models come standard with Picatinny rails, and threaded barrels are available to accommodate a suppressor.

While you can order your gun directly from Christensen Arms, specifying exactly what you want, there are some 250 dealers across the country that have Christensen Arms 1911 pistols in stock. To locate the nearest dealer, click on the "dealer" tab on the Christensen website. For more, visit christensenarms.com or call 888-517-8855.

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Damascus steel delivers an ultra-tough component for today's pistols.

Damascus steel means a lot of different things depending on when and where it was manufactured. Damascus steel first appeared around 300 BC, primarily in India and the Middle East. It was made by melting alternate lengths of iron and steel together in an oxygen-starved environment, then allowing it to slowly cool. The material was then forged into the desired shape, often a sword blade. The technique

demands considerable labor and a high degree of skill. The result is a crystalline metal displaying the distinctive two-tone patterns referred to as simply "Damascus."

BARREL LORE: In addition to being popular for sword blades, Damascus steel was later used for firearm barrels by forming it around a mandrel. While strong enough for blackpowder pressures, Damascus-

barreled shotguns were relegated to display pieces with the advent of modern smokeless powder.

Damascus swords were once reputed to be able to slice through rifle barrels, and be sharp enough to halve a human hair simply dropped on the blade's cutting edge. Many believed this unlikely hyperbole, adding to the legend of this storied material. Today's Damascus steel is a far cry from the metal produced over 2,000 years ago.

WARRIOR STEEL: Modern Damascus steel is strong and strikingly beautiful. Damascus billets are extremely tough and difficult to machine, which is one reason Damascus pistol slides are so expensive. Some

of today's 1911 manufacturers make triggers, safeties and other small parts, as well as slide assemblies, from a combination of powdered and poured Swedish steel sometimes known as "stainless Damascus." Some current gun manufacturers like Caspian Arms also produce 1911-platform pistol components from this steel.

The swirling, two-toned patterns peculiar to Damascus steel creates a highly distinctive appearance. Christensen Arms manufactures its Damascus slides from billets of this Swedish steel. The main advantage of a Damascus slide is aesthetic. If you want a 1911 that will really raise eyebrows and draw admirers, Christensen Arms can deliver. ☑



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GET A GRIP

A sneak peek at the latest hands-on upgrades that keep you locked onto your gun and your targets.

BY DAVID MACCAR

A HANDGUN'S GRIP IS WHERE THE SHOOTER'S HAND MARRIES TO THE MACHINE. A GRIP THAT SUITS A

shooter's needs, whether they are specific or broad, is essential to good shooting and tactical weapon security. There are many aftermarket grip options for almost any firearm (not just the thousand 1911 grips out there), from CNC-machined aluminum panels with super-aggressive checkering to super-grippy synthetic grip sleeves, plus all the gorgeous hardwood grips that can make a stainless wheelgun look like a work of art. Most are inexpensive and easy to install yourself, but can make all the difference in the world when it comes to putting rounds on target and riding smooth in the holster.



EAGLE GRIPS S&W SECRET SERVICE

These handsome rosewood grips from Eagle Grips, with finger grooves and checkering, don't extend beyond the butt of the revolver and resist printing when carried concealed far better than rubber grips—all without sacrificing a secure hold. It's a great combination of concealment and control that looks gorgeous on stainless wheelguns. **MSRP: \$99.95.** (eaglegrips.com; 800-323-6144)

HOGUE LE 1911 GRIPS

Hogue has recently entered the world of integrated laser sight grips with its LE (Laser Equipped) line of grips. The LE series comes with windage/elevation screws, a 4mw laser diode, Overmodded rubber grips with Hogue's

Cobblestone pattern and a pressure pad activation switch. The laser's two CR2032 three-volt batteries can even be replaced without fully removing the grip, allowing the laser sight to retain its zero. Available in black, OD green, desert tan and pink. **MSRP: \$189.95.** (hogueinc.com; 800-438-4747)



ALUMAGRIPS 1911 GRATER GRIPS

Alumagrips introduced CNC technology to the handgun grip industry in 1986 with super light and thin grip panels. The company's Grater Grips for 1911s are designed for shooters who want the most aggressive checkering pattern available. A special CNC tool is used to cut the deep grooves in the Grater Grips, providing a great solution for shooters who use gloves in competition or in tactical situations, or for those who really want some aggressive texturing on their palm for enhanced control. **MSRP: \$70.** (alumagrips.com; 602-294-2390)



ERGO DELTA GRIP FOR RUGER LCR

This odd-looking new grip from ERGO Grips for the Ruger LCR/LCRx pistols actually makes a lot of sense when you think about it from the perspective of human anatomy and shooting mechanics. The canted angle not only forces the shooter to more naturally align the wrist, hand and forearm in a fashion that allows for superior grip and recoil absorption, but also for a more natural point-of-aim configuration. The grip is textured rubber over a rigid polymer core. **MSRP: \$29.99.** (ergogrips.net; 877-281-3783)



LIMBSAVER PRO HANDGUN GRIPS

LimbSaver's grip sleeve is designed to provide reduction of muzzle jump and felt recoil via multiple impact nodes located on the inside of the grip, which create a buffer between the shooter's hand and the firearm. The nodes collapse as the gun is discharged, absorbing recoil. A protection lip also protects the thumb from the hammer guard's contact point. With four sizes that will also accommodate AR pistol grips, this is a great buy. Many colors available. **MSRP: \$11.99.** (limbsaver.com; 877-257-2761)

PHOTOS COURTESY MANUFACTURERS



PACHMAYR AMERICAN LEGEND

The American Legend grips from Pachmayr have returned for Smith & Wesson's J-, K&L- and N-frame round-butt revolvers. Improved contours evenly distribute and disperse recoil. The American Legend signature combination of beautiful wood style and wraparound rubber panels provide a sure, non-slip grip. They're available in traditional rosewood and charcoal silvertone laminates for either blued or stainless models. **MSRP is \$79.98. (pachmayr.com; 800-225-9626)**



PEARCE GRIP EXTENSIONS

For shooters with big hands who need better control over small-frame pistols, and for shooters in states with magazine-capacity limits, these grip extensions from Pearce Grip could be a perfect solution. They replace the magazine floorplate, adding about an inch in length (depending on the firearms model) without altering the capacity of the magazine. Each is made to blend seamlessly with the handgun's factory grip pattern. Grip Extensions are currently available for various pistol manufacturers, including Beretta, Colt, Kahr and Springfield Armory. **MSRP: \$9.95. (pearcegrip.com; 800-390-9420)**



MAGPUL MOE 1911 GRIP PANELS

Designed with input from Magpul's Training Division instructors, these new grips are constructed of heavy-duty reinforced polymer with a unique diamond-shaped cross-section to prevent twisting in the hands. They also feature an aggressive magazine release cutout, anti-slip texturing and are compatible with ambidextrous safeties. A textured version with light checkering is also available. MOE 1911 Grip Panels come in black, Flat Dark Earth, OD green, foliage green, pink and stealth grey. **MSRP: \$19.95. (magpul.com; 303-828-3460)**



VZ GRIPS ALIEN GRIPS FOR SPRINGFIELD EMP

Originally designed for the 1911 for the Precision Weapons Section of the U.S. Marine Corps, these grips provide a great look for the Springfield Armory EMP and just the right amount of bite with staggered horizontal checkering. Made from G10, the Alien EMP grips are available in black desert sand and black. **MSRP: \$60. (vzgrips.com; 850-422-1911)**



WILSON COMBAT G10 GRIPS FOR BERETTA 92/96

The Beretta 92/96 can get a facelift with new grips much like the 1911, and these G10 golf-ball-pattern grip panels in "dirty olive" from Wilson Combat have a tactical yet refined appearance. CNC-machined for a perfect fit, these grips have an extra-thin profile for improved feel and concealment, plus aggressive textures for an enhanced grip under any range conditions. G10 grips shown are on the new Beretta 92G Brigadier. **MSRP: \$69.95. (wilsoncombat.com; 800-955-4856)**



A&G SUPPLY GRIP EXTENDERS

A&G Supply offers a full line of magazine adapters for all types of Glock, 1911-style, Springfield Armory and Smith & Wesson pistols. The tough, polymer, one-piece parts slip over the top of your magazine and are secured at the bottom with a set screw. They also have a matte black textured finish that nicely complements your gun and matches the contours of your grip. With a longer magazine and the grip extender in place, you can recreate the capacity and grip of the larger version of your concealed-carry pistol. The A&G Supply Grip Adapter actually makes it easier to more comfortably and more accurately shoot your compact handgun. For more information, visit lonewolfdist.com. — JORGE AMSELLE

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT LANE PEARCE III

Remembering one of the firearms industry's most innovative accessory manufacturers.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of Pearce Grip, one of the leading manufacturers of accessory grips and magazine extensions. Robert Lane Pearce III, who passed away in November at age 57 following a nine-year battle with Leukemia, never lost sight of his goals and his company's mission to develop and produce grip and magazine accessories to improve the safe and effective handling of semi-auto pistols. In an interview just a few months ago, Pearce told me about the twist of fate that led him into the firearms industry back in the early 1990s.

Lane and his wife, Paula, established Pearce Grip in 1994, after a hobby of making grips for Makarov pistols turned into a part-time job. "Back then, Makarov pistols were very popular imports. I was managing an engineering company out of

Seattle, Washington, that worked for the aerospace industry," said Pearce. "I knew how to do 3D design and had access to companies that could build just about anything from a design model. A friend of mine had purchased a Makarov but hated the grips, so I came up with a design to make replacement grips."

Moving from the design phase to the final product was what Pearce knew best, and he had the Makarov grips manufactured. "That was the easy part, but marketing," he recalled, "was something I had no idea about." To his surprise, the Makarov replacement grips became an immediate success with gun owners and the marketing sort of took care of itself. His next project was to design a finger-grooved pistol grip for the Colt Model 1911, and then accessories for the popular Glock subcompacts. "At

that point I realized I could actually make a living at this," said Pearce. And he did go on to make a living, and a difference in the industry.

Pearce added magazine floorplate extensions to his designs in 1996, initially for the Glock 26 subcompact and then other models, with some manufacturers eventually making the Pearce magazine extensions a standard feature or option. Today, Pearce's company, located in Fort Worth, Texas, manufactures grip extensions for more than 40 different handguns, including those from Glock, the Springfield Armory XD models, the Taurus 709 and 740, the Ruger LCP, the Smith & Wesson M&P Shield and the Beretta Nano, as well as three-piece, rubber, combat-style wraparound grips for a variety of compact 1911 models, AR-15 grips, and magazine exten-

sions for Beretta, Browning and Sig Sauer models. It's a long way from a pair of Makarov replacement grips 20 years ago!

Pearce was always approachable, easy to talk to, eager to share ideas and continually looking for ways to improve his products to meet the ever-changing demands of gun owners. His family will carry on the Pearce Grip tradition, and like so many pioneers and innovators in the firearms industry, his name and the familiar "PG" logo will not be forgotten.

— DENNIS ADLER



NEXT-GEN .357 MAG

THE GREAT M&P ROO



**Smith & Wesson's
8-shot PC .357 gets
super-enhanced for
home-defense or
firing-line duty!**

BY WILLIAM BELL

PHOTOS BY SEAN UTLEY



The Smith & Wesson M&P R8, enhanced by the Performance Center, is a truly modern revolver with next-gen upgrades for home defense. Shown with a Leupold DeltaPoint and a LaserLyte Center Mass.



WHILE HANDGUNS SELECTED FOR CONCEALED CARRY ARE OFTEN COMPACT AND LIGHTWEIGHT, SO AS TO BE MORE comfortable to the wearer and more likely to be carried, the home defense or “house gun” has no such restrictions, unless maybe it’s too big for your bedside table drawer. With this in mind, I recently tested a revolver from Smith & Wesson’s Performance Center, and for those who prefer wheelguns it could just be the ultimate house gun.

Nowadays, we can’t necessarily call a revolver a six-shooter. In fact, this gun is based on S&W’s N-Frame, like those used on the .44 Magnum, and it allows for

a larger-diameter cylinder so the company can now make an eight-shot .357 Magnum. Named the Military & Police (M&P) R8, this handgun has a number of unique features.

● **NEXT-GEN WHEELGUN**

Its standard Picatinny rails are integral with the shroud that fits onto the two-piece barrel system, so you have rails on top and bottom. The steel barrel shroud is held onto the smaller-diameter barrel with a special locking nut at the muzzle, which gives the barrel extra rigidity and more potential accuracy. Almost a throwback to earlier times, the barrel has a length of 5 inches. The shroud also forms the ejector rod underlug, which is also part of the ball-and-detent locking system in conjunction with the cylinder

with a white dot. Also on the shroud are the special M&P R8 markings and caliber designation. To the rear of the upper rail is a fully adjustable rear sight that has a V-shaped notch, rather than the usual square notch with a white outline.

Fashioned from stainless steel, the cylinder, like the rest of the revolver, has a matte black finish. The eight .357 Magnum chambers are chamfered at the rear to assist with the insertion of cartridges; the rear of the cylinder is also counter-bored to allow the use of an eight-round moon clip. To reduce the heft somewhat, the frame of the M&P R8 is made of scandium alloy, limiting the gun to an empty weight of 36.3 ounces. Fitted into the topstrap of the frame, at the rear of the barrel, is a stainless steel shield that prevents hot gases from cutting into

“I managed to keep everything in the black and my tightest cluster measured 1.33 inches with the Speer load.”

yoke. Up front, on the top side, the shroud becomes a ramp into which an interchangeable front sight is pinned. In this case it’s a 0.125-inch, patridge-style sight

the M&P R8 revolver’s frame metal.

The grip frame is the universal round-butt K-Frame profile fitted with synthetic-grips with the S&W logo and

“pebbled” side panels. Everything else on the M&P R8 is typical of the modern Smith & Wesson revolver. The firing pin is mounted in the frame, the cylinder stop is integral to the frame, there’s a redesigned cylinder-release latch, the inclusion of a keyhole for the internal safety/security lock, plus the extractor star has offset arm tips that keep it locked in place. The hammer has a medium-width spur that’s checkered for a good thumb purchase, and the trigger is wide and smooth-faced, which makes the already smooth Performance Center action feel even smoother.

HOUSE-GUN UPGRADES

As this is going to be a “house gun” and there are no size, shape or weight constraints, I decided to utilize the accessory rails on the M&P R8 to their fullest.

First, I decided to use a reflex sight added to the upper rail. Few sights offer better features than the DeltaPoint from Leupold. This lightweight red dot, or in this case a 7.5-MOA red triangle, is a true “keep it simple” sighting device. Motion-sensor technology activates the unit so there’s no on/off switch to remember or malfunction, and the red delta is large and easy to see in low light with both

SPECIFICATIONS

SMITH & WESSON PERFORMANCE CENTER M&P R8

Caliber	.357 Magnum/.38 Special
Barrel	5 inches
OA Length	10.5 inches
Weight	36.3 ounces
Sights	White-dot front, adjustable notch rear
Grips	Synthetic
Action	DA/SA
Finish	Matte black
Capacity	8
MSRP	\$1,329

eyes open. The DiamondCoat on the sight lens offers abrasion resistance and the ultimate in light transmission, plus my unit came with a variety of bases and pins for multiple mounting applications. The sight’s magnesium housing is finished in matte black and weighs a scant 0.6 ounces. Magnification is 1X and windage and elevation adjustments are both in the 60-MOA range. Adjustments are easily made using the factory-supplied Torx driver and



The M&P R8 can support numerous accessories for fast targeting.



The cylinder holds eight rounds, and it’s counterbored for using moon clips.

WILLIAM BELL PHOTOS

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the single CR 2032 3V lithium battery is easy to install or replace. I attached the Leupold DeltaPoint sight on the M&P R8 using the universal Cross Slot Mount and had it sighted in quickly and easily.

As a backup to the DeltaPoint, I mounted a subcompact V3 from LaserLyte on the bottom rail. This is the smallest laser sight offered by LaserLyte, and its tiny, 0.5-ounce, 6061-T6 aluminum housing contains a full 5mw red laser that has both steady and pulse modes. Visible for 500 yards in darkness, the 650nm laser module is powered by 4-377 batteries with a five-hour (steady) and 10-hour (pulse) runtime. Dual on/off buttons in the rear provide versatility and there's an auto-off feature to help save batteries. The best part is that it will mount on any 1-inch rail with at least 0.75 inches of rail space using its integral claw mount. It was perfect for the M&P R8 and could be attached away from the muzzle yet easily activated. The advantages of a laser to me are the intimidation factor of the red dot and you can focus on the target—and in a low-light situation you can make sure said target is not a “friendly.”

To further assist with target identification and to blind a potential aggressor in a low-light situation, I mounted Safariland's RLS (Rapid Light System). It's highly versatile and can be used as a handheld light or a gun-mounted light, plus it has a clip so you can attach it to your belt when you don't need it. The LED light produces a powerful 190-lumen beam, yet it's powered by three common AAA alkaline batteries. The rear-mounted, push-button on/off switch is ambidextrous for momentary or steady light activation and can be fitted with a pressure switch tail cap. Made of high-strength aluminum and polymer, the RLS is durable and lightweight. I mounted the light on the upper rail of the M&P R8. The light's mount pivots on a crane that locks into one of the slots on the rail when it is fully positioned on the left or right side of the gun, and it takes only seconds to attach or remove. Surprisingly, where I put it did not interfere with my use of the Leupold DeltaPoint reflex sight.

I don't know of any holster that will accommodate the M&P R8 the way I have it set up. As an exercise in curiosity, I did a little experimentation and it occurred to me that a simple and inexpensive Sidekick holster from Uncle Mike's would work given a little tweaking. I selected a Model #2, the size of which worked well for this N-Frame, 5-inch-barreled revolver. It's a given that the gun will not fit in the holster with the RLS light at-

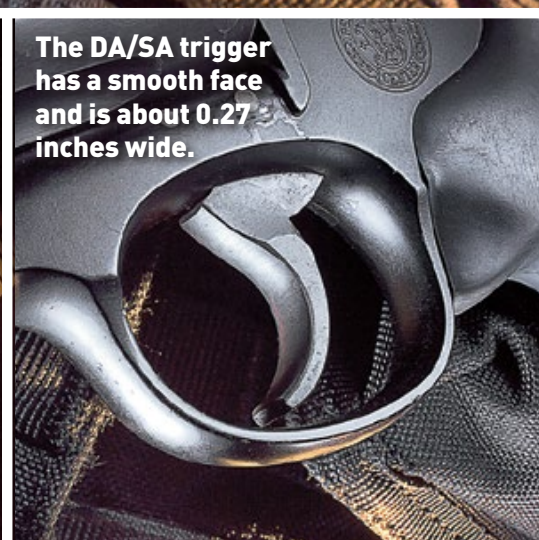
The R8 features a long top rail, an adjustable rear sight and a semi-target hammer spur designed to offer an enhanced purchase.



The M&P R8 features a rubber Hogue Monogrip with pebble texturing and finger grooves.



The DA/SA trigger has a smooth face and is about 0.27 inches wide.



“Not only do the rails make the M&P R8 a formidable house gun, but their versatility...make this revolver highly competitive for various sporting purposes.”

tached, but in two seconds the light is off and clipped to the belt near the holster and can be quickly re-attached if needed. I cut a slot in the top of the holster, in front where the rear sight would usually be—this slot allowed me to keep the reflex sight in place on the gun. Next, I cut part of the seam on the back of the holster, near the muzzle. This 1.5-inch cut allowed the gun to be holstered with the LaserLyte laser sight unit in place on the lower rail. As the holster seam is lock-stitched, the remainder of the sewn seam did not unravel. This is not a fast-draw rig, just a means to carry the gun on the belt if need be, and the safety strap on the holster keeps the weapon secure.

● RANGE WORK

To prove the gun's functionality I selected three brands of .357 Magnum cartridges,

which run the gamut from a high-velocity, lightweight bullet to a more moderate velocity and a heavier bullet design. From CorBon I picked its 125-grain JHP load. Factory specs give it a velocity of 1,450 feet per second (fps), and it's loaded with a controlled-expansion bullet with a serrated jacket that assures the bullet mushrooms. Next I chose the Starfire load from PMC. This cartridge has a unique 150-grain JHP bullet sporting a deep hollow-point that incorporates a rib and flute design. This gives the nose cavity a “flower petal” appearance and, when combined with the notched jacket, gives this bullet outstanding expansion and penetration characteristics. From Speer I picked a 158-grain Gold Dot HP load. The bullet on this round has an electroplated “jacket” that is punch-formed to give it a cup-like hollow point. The nose of this



The M&P R8 passed the author's "home defense" range drills with flying colors.

PERFORMANCE

**SMITH & WESSON
PERFORMANCE CENTER
M&P R8 .357 MAGNUM**

LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
CorBon 125 JHP	1,556	2.47
PMC Starfire 150 JHP	1,178	1.79
Speer Gold Dot 158 JHP	1,224	1.33

BULLET WEIGHT MEASURED IN GRAINS, VELOCITY IN FPS BY CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY IN INCHES FOR BEST FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS.

bullet is notched and serrated to improve its expansion capabilities using the FBI ballistic test protocol.

With the gun stripped of its gadgetry, I wanted to see what it would do with just the iron sights, so I put up bullseye targets at the 25-yard mark. Shooting from the bench using a sandbag rest and firing in single-action mode, I triggered three 5-shot groups with each of the test loads. I found the point of aim (POA) needed to be adjusted slightly for each bullet weight: higher for the CorBon and lower for the Gold Dot. I managed to keep everything in the black and my tightest cluster measured 1.33 inches with the Speer load. It also had the best group average, followed in second place by the PMC Starfire. Additionally, I did not use the moon clips during this test phase as they are not mandatory to shoot the R8.

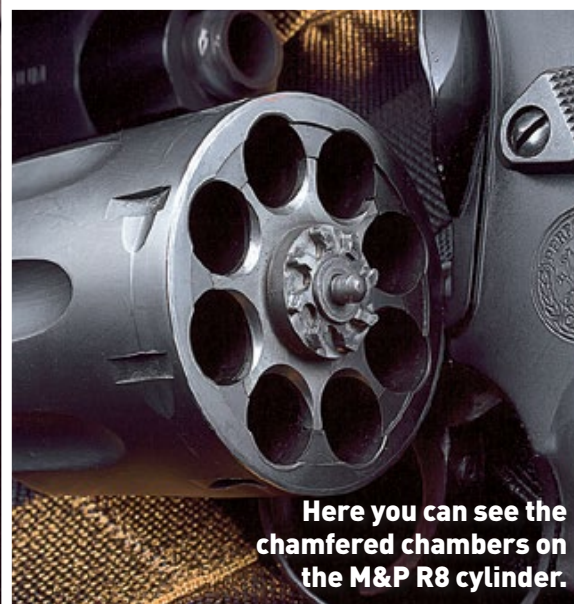
For a practical "home defender" evaluation, I modified a combat qualification course I use in my position as a LE agency firearms instructor. Normally employing 30 rounds, I had to modify it for the eight-round cylinder capacity of the Smith M&P R8, and therefore I ended up using 10 more cartridges than normal. As the CorBon loads were very controllable in rapid fire, I selected them for



The barrel shroud features an integral rail for mounting lights, lasers and other mission-critical accessories.



The R8's barrel shroud fully encloses the ejector rod.



Here you can see the chamfered chambers on the M&P R8 cylinder.

my practical shooting exercise. A B-27 silhouette target was put up to use as the designated "bad guy." With the M&P R8 designated as a house gun, none of the scenarios started with the gun in the holster, but with the gun held down and discretely positioned behind the right leg. Rapid reloading was also not really a factor, but a quick reload using the moon clip was done in the first test stage.

To simulate an up-close-and-personal situation as might occur in a home invasion with intruders attempting to burst through an opened door, I started at the 3-yard line. As the Leupold sight is motion activated, it alone was used in this stage as close distances and a certain amount of surprise precluded the use of the light or laser sight. Using the strong hand only, I took a flash sight picture and fired eight rounds, reloaded with the moon clip and fired eight more with the support hand only. Moving back to 7 yards (or across the room) and having a bit more time to engage the gun's sighting devices, I activated the LaserLyte laser sight and the Safariland RLS light. It and the Leupold DeltaPoint were used together—looking through the lens of the reflex sight, the laser "dot" was positioned just atop the point of the reflex

sight's projected red triangle. A series of four double-taps emptied the cylinder. After a reload, from the same distance I raised the gun and fired two shots center mass, then one to the head and one to the pelvis of the target; this was then repeated. Moving to cover at 15 yards and reloading, I fired four rounds down low, behind the cover, and four rounds kneeling from behind the cover.

Although a numeric score is mostly unimportant, I did chew a big hole in the center of the target with the M&P R8, sighting accessories and the CorBon cartridges. I also made two good head and pelvis hits in case my "bad guy" was wearing body armor. Why did I shoot 40 rounds? Knowing most home defense deadly force situations are not going to end up like the gunfight at the OK Corral, my purpose was to see if the light, sight and laser would continue to function during all the shooting, and if they would come loose from the various mounting systems.

As it turned out, the reflex sight and laser allowed me to rapidly engage my adversary and do quick follow-up shots without losing my sights. Performing the testing during the day made the tactical light superfluous, but I wanted to make

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S&W PERFORMANCE CENTER M&P R8

sure it wouldn't fly off during the shooting or shut down. I also did some dry-fire exercises in the dark stairwell of my house with all three devices on the M&P R8 activated, and nobody was going to get up those stairs if I didn't let them. The moon-clip system aided fast reloads and the M&P R8, with the added weight of the gadgetry, was easy to control, accurate and no malfunctions of any kind were experienced with gun or gear.

FINAL SHOTS

This type of gun and overall setup is not going to be for everyone, especially if you are on a tight budget. What this exercise did allow me to do was see what I could do with the Smith & Wesson M&P R8 and its unique features. By itself it is accurate, rugged and reliable, but with the accessory rails you can now see their potential uses. Not only do the rails make the M&P R8 a formidable house gun, but their versatility can also make this revolver highly competitive for various sporting purposes. Yes, I believe we are now in the age of the autoloader, but the good old wheelgun will never die—this contender from the S&W Performance Center is proof! **CH**



Editor's Note:

We at Combat Handguns would like to throw a special shout-out to author William "Bill" Bell, who recently retired from U.S. Customs and Border Protection after 38 years of outstanding service. Along his travels, Bill has found the time to become one of Harris' most steadfast contributors to CH as well as several other Harris Publications titles, including *Guns Of The Old West* (under the pen name "La Vista" Bill), *Guns & Weapons For Law Enforcement* and *Special Weapons For Military & Police*. We look forward to having him in our contributor stable for many more years to come. Cheers, Bill!

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PHOTO BY STEVE WOODS

RAGING JUDGE

Testing the Taurus .454 Casull/.45 Colt/.410 revolver that set the industry trend! BY WALT RAUCH



Taurus' first cartridge and shotshell revolver, named "the Judge," was introduced in 2006 and chambered in .45 Colt and 2.5-inch .410 shotshell.

Why it earned the label of "the Judge" or "Judge" is not clear, but the story suggests this was due to an interest by judges who wanted to be armed while on the bench in a crowded courtroom. However, these judges were concerned with a handgun round over-penetrating or a missed shot hitting a bystander, so they needed a defensive handgun capable of firing a lethal round with minimal penetration. Since the Judge had both cartridge and shotshell, this was exactly what the judges wanted and needed.

Handgun buyers also saw the combination as desirable and bought the Judge in large numbers. How successful was the concept? Well, Smith & Wesson now has its own version of the Judge and ammunition companies now offer 2.5-inch and 3-inch .410 shotshells, which are loaded specifically for self-defense.

The Raging Judge Magnum reviewed

here is another addition to the now-expanded line of Judge revolvers. The Judge is chambered in .454 Casull, .45 Colt and 3-inch .410 shotshell, and is an amalgam of other large-frame Taurus revolvers. To me, it most closely resembles the Taurus Raging Bull Model 454, also chambered in .454 Casull.

The .454 Casull was developed in 1957 by Dick Casull and Jack Fullmer, but little of note happened with it until Ruger chambered its Redhawk for it in 1997. This was followed in 1998 by Taurus chambering its Raging Bull for the .454 as well. Since the .454 Casull cartridge is based on the shorter .45 Colt, this shorter round works in a .454 Casull-chambered gun.

The Judge is chambered in 3-inch .410 shotshell, which is a step up in power from the 2.5-inch version. However, the 2.5-inch also can be used in the gun.

Meet The Magnum

The Raging Judge Magnum is an all-stainless-steel revolver with a brushed finish, holds six rounds, is double and single action and weighs 4.5 pounds. It has a 6.5-inch barrel with full-length underlug and a faux rib in the barrel, all of which is complemented by three longitudinal cuts in its upper portion. The barrel's full-length underlug, when relieved, also serves as a shroud for the extractor rod.

The massive fluted cyl-

inder has two cylinder locks, with one in front of the cylinder crane and one in the gun's recoil shield. To release the cylinder, the front machine-checked crane lock is moved down, while the rear (also machine-checked) thumbpiece must be simultaneously pushed forward.

A red, fiber-optic front sight is pinned into a sight base that appears to be part of the barrel. The gun's sights are fixed.

The Judge's smooth-faced trigger is curved, offering 13.5-pound double-action pull weight and a single-action pull weight of 5.5 pounds. The machine-checked hammer spur is slightly wider than the body of the hammer. With the hammer forward, the Taurus Safety System can be accessed since its keyhole is below the spur and in the frame.

Group Judgment

As to what you can expect when handling and shooting the Raging Judge Magnum, I employed the help of my friends AJ Stuart, Irv Gill and Joe Mulligan at our gun club's range and set up Shoot-N-See LE B27 target centers placed at 3, 5 and 7 yards, on which AJ and Joe shot pairs of Winchester 250-grain Partition Gold .454 Casull ammo. They kept the pairs within 2 inches of each other while firing at a measured and steady pace. The anticipated fierce recoil was a non-starter and it was only after firing about 20 rounds that AJ commented that his hand was now stinging with every shot. Joe then fired roughly the same amount of ammo, but his only comment was the gun has less felt recoil than he experiences



The "Raging Bull" red cushion insert in the Judge's grip is meant to reduce felt recoil.

shooting full-powered .44 Magnum loads in his 6-inch-barreled S&W Model 629.

I shot less, firing 15 rounds, and wore Uncle Mike's padded shooting gloves. My only comment then was I found the gun a bit too heavy to hold extended for any length of time. Still, and to the good, the combination of a heavy barrel, heavy gun and rubber grip effectively minimized muzzle flip and felt recoil. For fun we all did some unstructured shooting and used the normally hard-hitting (at both ends!) CorBon 300-grain JHP and the also-powerful Magtech 225-grain JHP.

Then, with fresh targets hung, we all shot the Winchester's top-selling PDX1 Defender .410 shotshells, which are loaded with three plated Defense Disc projectiles and 12 plated BBs.

Our results were quite similar to the results obtained from shooting in an earlier 2-inch-barreled Judge. At 3 yards, the entire payload is tightly clustered in a pattern 6.5 inches high by 5.25 inches wide, with the three discs centered. At 5 yards, the pattern opened to 14 inches high by 10 inches wide, with the discs remaining centered. At 7 yards, we lost three to five pellets off target, the pattern opened up a little farther to 14 inches high by 12 inches wide, but, yet again, the discs were still center hits.

SPECIFICATIONS

Taurus Raging Judge Magnum

Caliber	.45 Colt, .454 Casull, .410 shotshell
Barrel	6.5 inches
OA Length	13.6 inches
Weight	73 ounces
Grips	Rubber
Sights	Fixed, red fiber optic
Action	DA/SA
Finish	Stainless steel
Capacity	6
MSRP	\$1,061

Final Verdict

Purpose is in the eye of the holder. The Judge is good for hunting and pest control around the homestead. It can also pull duty as a solid home or vehicle defensive tool when loaded with the appropriate ammo. I see the Raging Judge Magnum as mainly a hunting handgun because of its options, such as having the choice of using pellets or bullets, either of which greatly expand its hunting applications. For more information, visit taurususa.com or call 800-327-3776. **CH**

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THE GUN SHOP



REMORA TUCKABLE HOLSTER

The Remora Tuckable Holster is designed so that the side of the holster facing toward the waistband has an additional flap, enabling the user to tuck their shirt between the outside of the holster and the inside of the flap. The holster's waistband side has a smooth (loop) denier covering. The outside of the flap's waistband side features non-slip rubber, which helps keep the concealed carrier from over-tucking their shirt and from pulling it out with any drag. The holster also comes with a detachable Kydex clip to aid in putting on the holster. (remoraholsterstore.com)



TALON GRIPS FOR GLOCKS

Made for all Glock models, Talon Grips' rear-wrap grips are available in both granulate and rubber textures. Each grip unit offers full coverage on the side panels above the thumb rest, on the backstrap and three-finger wraps for the finger grooves under the triggerguard. Each grip was specifically designed for Glock's Gen3 and earlier models as well as Gen4 models with different backstrap sizes. (talongungrrips.com)



REPUBLIC FORGE CUSTOM 1911 PISTOLS

Republic Forge offers you the ability to customize your own 1911 pistol. The custom gun-making tool on the company's website provides great step-by-step visuals so that you can see what your new pistol will look like before you order. Master gunsmith Jeff Meister will also help provide you with the perfect fit for your hand and style. You can customize many features on each of these American-made, hand-fit 1911 pistols, including the grips, frame, slide, caliber, safety, sights, color, model and more. (republicforge.com)

STEEL WILL DAGGER

With its distinctive design and broad capabilities, the Italian-made Fervor 1250 is a limited-edition dagger design that appeals to the eye with rich color, texture and shape. The narrow, stiletto-type, double-edged blade is made from N690CO steel, which is corrosion resistant and easy to maintain for sharpness. Accenting the 6.69-inch blade is a beautiful G10 handle that offers an excellent ergonomic fit. A handmade Italian leather sheath securely stores the dagger. (steelwillknives.com)



TETRA GUN BRUSH SET

The Tetra Gun Three-Piece Multi-Purpose Brush Set provides three brushes to help remove stubborn contaminants such as fouling and burn marks from firearm barrels. Use the nylon brush to scrub fresh carbon or powder residue from the inside and outside of the barrel, the bronze brush for cleaning metal surfaces, such as slides, receivers and locking lugs, and the stainless brush to remove persistent fouling. Constructed of high-quality materials, the durable brush set will help maintain your firearms for years to come. (tetraguncare.com)

PHALANX DEFENSE SYSTEMS STEALTH OPERATOR

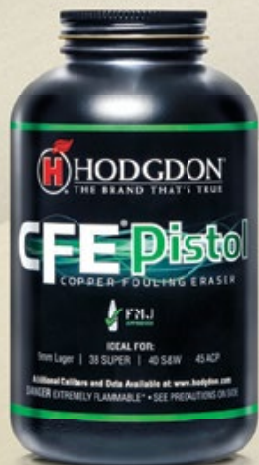
The Stealth Operator Holster is a lightweight, low-profile, multi-fit holster developed to provide minimal print and maximum concealment. Its unique, contoured design allows for one holster to provide a comfortable, secure fit for many weapon models including those by Glock, Ruger, H&K, Taurus, Springfield Armory and Sig Sauer. The holster features Phalanx's Frame-Lock technology, which locks your weapon into the holster keeping it secure until you need it. The holster is available in both full-size and compact versions and in four colors. It is constructed of high-quality nylon and fits belts up to 1.5 inches wide. This will be the holster you use every day. (phalanxsystems.com)



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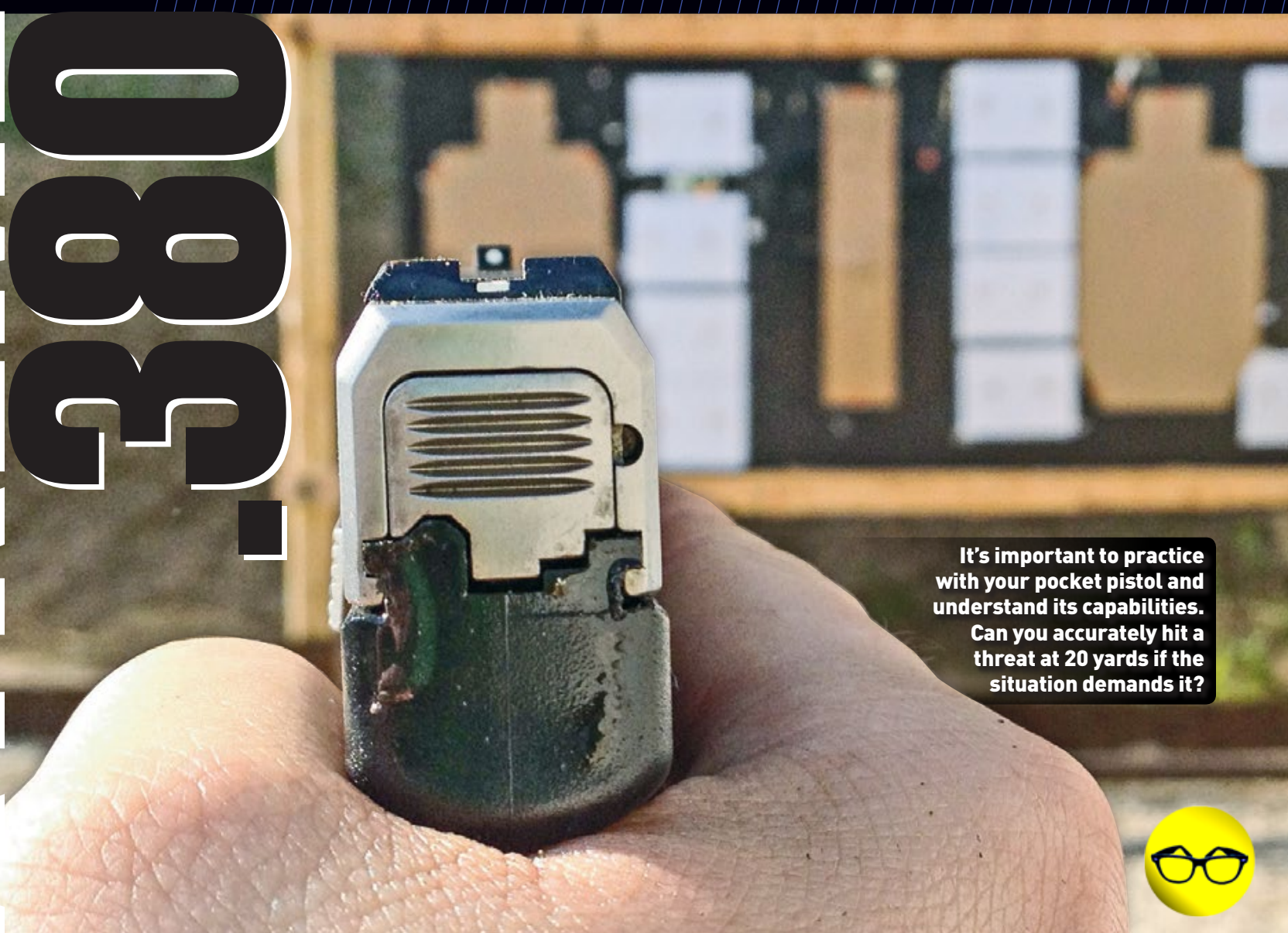
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EXTREME

How dropping plates with a compact .380 ACP at 20 yards can sharpen your close-quarters defense skills.

BY DAVE NORMAN



It's important to practice with your pocket pistol and understand its capabilities. Can you accurately hit a threat at 20 yards if the situation demands it?



“WITH THAT LITTLE THING?” THE

range master asked. I was preparing to engage a plate rack at 20 yards with Kahr's tiny CW380. “You're nuts!”

There are very few cases where you'd ever need to fire a .380 ACP past 7 yards. Those longer ranges are better suited to calibers that start with a “4,” or ideally, shotguns and rifles. But the gun you're wearing beats the gun you left in your car, and for many of us, that's our pocket pistol. What can yours do at 20 yards?

You need to know how your gun performs within the most logical range of contact for its type and use. For a .380 ACP backup gun, that's contact range—and you'll probably be on your back or have a hand occupied with grappling. But for a .380 ACP in the role of an everyday carry pistol that means the standard 7 to 10 yards you already train for with larger pistols. It also means that you might need to employ that .380 ACP to engage a more

distant, modern threat.

Returning effective fire on an active shooter in a theater, a mall or at work might require making hits at ranges you never conceived for your .380 ACP. You need to know where it hits out to 20 yards (or more), even though that seems, at first, ludicrous.

The biggest threats I routinely encounter come while jogging: coydogs and stray guard dogs. Given their charging speed, I might need to—and be justified to—shoot them at greater range than a human attacker. There's just no way to outrun dogs, and you want to start directing effective fire as early as you know you're being attacked, which means while there's still some distance between you and their fangs.

These are surely remote possibilities, but we carry concealed for exactly that reason, to address remote possibilities when they surprise us. We owe it to

ourselves to be as best prepared, with knowledge and skills as well as proper equipment, as we can be.

Building Accuracy

I've shot a lot of .380 ACPs, and most aren't particularly fun. Older models weren't built to be accurate, being intended as contact-range guns, and their lack of surface area on the backstrap made the extended shooting of many of them unpleasant. Reliability was often questionable for anything reasonably priced. That's changed for the better, however, with thoroughly modern offerings from just about every name brand, and some reliable performers from the fringes as well. So, too, have the techniques for carrying and shooting them.

As an example of a thoroughly modern .380 ACP, I put a Kahr CW380 through its paces. The stubby 2.5-inch barrel and relative lack of mass

provided much less muzzle flip than I expected, as the overall compactness of the gun brought the bore line much closer to my hands.

Surprisingly, the best accuracy returned with this pistol came from maintaining a grip no tighter than a gentle squeeze. Clamping my hands together, using the fingers to pull the palms together like a vise, actually degraded accuracy. Instead, the tiny pistol wants a firm grip that controls it, which means more energy is directed into cycling the slide

ing that recoil can hurt, and the tiny gun will be pointed several degrees off center.

With barrels and sight radiuses as short as they are on .380 ACPs, bringing the gun up to bear with a proper, repeatable grip is crucial. The Kahr has very clear, snag-free sights, and many modern .380 ACPs have quality sights as well. A big selling point of guns like the Glock 42 is that the sights are identical to those on their larger models, but even with advances in design, pointing guns this small instinctively is largely a matter of proper practice.

tion combination offers a 95-grain FMJ and paired 95-grain JHP, for practice and defense respectively, that have exceedingly similar recoil characteristics and points of impact—and each projectile style worked flawlessly in testing the Kahr. They are designed to work across .380 ACP platforms, and modern .380 ACPs are designed for reliability with hollow-points in mind.

Expect kinetic energy from 95-grain defensive rounds to be around 190-200 foot-pounds of energy from common 90-grain and 95-grain loads, compared to around 350 foot-pounds for a 115-grain 9mm. We don't choose the .380 ACP for its comparative stopping power, but modern loads do their best with the light projectiles and powder charges, and their projectiles are designed to perform reliably at their low velocities.

The Kahr's backstrap did an excellent job of distributing recoil into my hand, such that it was a pleasure to shoot, even for 500 rounds over two days of testing. It felt milder than a .38 Special with target loads, which is a fair comparison standard for most .380 ACPs. What you might think would be the biggest challenge—finding somewhere to go with your pinky—turned out to be not too bad in this case. Wrap your pinky under the grip and focus on more important things. So while I'm nuts to shoot the CW380 at falling plates at 20 yards, I can reliably hit four of them per magazine. What's really nuts is that modern pocket pistols can do that! **CH**

Returning effective fire on an active shooter...might require making hits at ranges you never conceived for your .380 ACP

than moving the firing hand, but no more than that. The comparably relaxed grip shrank groups at 10 yards by 20 percent and increased shooting pleasure.

Sight & Squeeze

When trying to keep all your hits at 20 yards in the 12-inch-by-18 inch “-1 zone” of an IDPA target, bring your pistol to bear instinctively. Align the front sight three quarters of the way up the target's torso. Align the rear sight, then stare through them at your target—which, if it was attacking you, is the only thing you're likely to be looking at, period. Squeeze the trigger evenly, being mindful of the figure-eight it wants to do as you stack the pressure. Try not to anticipate the shot, as the short barrel is particularly unforgiving of any misalignment with the target.

Draw & Grip Sharpening

The CW380, like Beretta's Pico and Kel-Tec's P-3AT and most other modern .380 ACPs, has no place for your pinky, so you'll want to extensively practice drawing it (unloaded) from your normal carry holsters. Focus on getting a solid, repeatable grip, one that finds the gun nestled as snugly into your hand as you can get it without risking slide bite.

Make sure the backstrap runs along the muscular part of your hand beneath your thumb. If it slips too far in, onto the thinner part of your hand nearer the middle of the palm, the bottom edge can become uncomfortable and the recoil impulse will be directed into the web of your hand off-center from your forearm, mean-

Ammo Considerations

While historically .380 ACP pocket pistols run reliably on FMJs alone, the Kahr functioned fine with JHP ammunition from Black Hills and Winchester, as well as FMJ rounds from Winchester and Federal American Eagle. In casual shooting of the Black Hills ammunition additionally through a Kel-Tec P-3AT and a Beretta Cheetah—a full-sized gun so far as .380 ACPs are concerned—the Black Hills JHP defensive rounds also worked flawlessly.

Winchester's Train & Defend ammuni-

The author function-checked his test ammunition by shooting at the head and tape squares on this IDPA target.



When a traditional carry gun would get in the way of your activities, a pocket .380 ACP like the Beretta Pico (shown) may be all you have when the need for a gun arises.

Beretta's Pico features functional, snag-free sights, which led to reliable center-mass hits at 10 yards during the author's informal testing at the range.

A JEFF COOPER RETROSPECTIVE

Excerpts from *Gunsite Gargantuan Gossip 2!*



GUNSITE GEM: With each God-given right comes an equal responsibility to discharge that right effectively, legally, safely and within the bounds of morality.

SPEAK THE TRUTH ▼

We read in a recent journal of opinion that in today's political climate the only one who dares to speak the truth is either a madman or a barbarian. We have been accused of being both, and it gives us much pleasure. We intend to keep right on speaking the truth—as we see it—as long as we have the strength.

WORTHY FOE ▼

In a grim tale from Zambezia we learn of a buffalo incident in which both the client and the professional hunter were killed. All we have is a news clipping, but we will learn some more about this when we go down there and see for ourselves. It appears that the buffalo was hit a bit high in the foreshoulder on the evening hunt, and got clear under cover of darkness. When the two riflemen took up the trail the following morning, the bull apparently employed the classic 270-degree loop and blind-sided his pursuers. This is a very sad event, but we cannot help admiring the buffalo, who evidently got clean away. Here, indeed, was a worthy antagonist.

RICH IN MIND ▼

"Wealth is not physical but metaphysical: It is to be found not in matter but in mind." —WARREN BROOKES

MATTER OF TRUST ▼

"There is something fundamentally wrong with an armed force when it is not armed, and its members are not allowed to keep personal weapons on base because the hierarchy fears they cannot be trusted with firearms. One wonders what this says about the ability of such a force to repel invaders, or for that matter why it is called an armed force at all." —C.M. CRISS

FOR THE RECORD ▼

"These gentlemen [who wish to disarm the American people] don't understand. We don't have the right to keep and bear arms because it is written in the Constitution. It is written in the Constitution because we have that right.

Similarly we don't own arms because we are free. We are free because we own arms." —ROGER JOHNSON

BETTER OPTION ▼

A quote we recently heard attributed to a young housewife in Texas when she was scolded for carrying her pistol illegally, since legal concealed carry is not possible at this time in that state: "It is easier for my husband to get me out of jail than out of the cemetery."

UNSEEN THREATS ▼

"There are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachment of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations." —JAMES MADISON

IN GOOD COMPANY ▼

As you know, the Brady Bill was defeated in the Senate by a squeaker, which filled Metzenbaum with purple fury. He shouted from the house tops that this was all the doings of the NRA. That is the finest compliment the Association has received in some time. It is said that you can tell the quality of a man (or in this case an organization) by the nature of his enemies. If Metzenbaum really hates us, we must be doing something right.

STAYING SAFE ▼

It has been pointed out by one of our political thinkers that other nations are organized to protect the government from the people, whereas the United States government was organized to protect the people from the government. That is a nice thought, but if we lose this coming election it may well no longer apply.

RANGE CONVERT ▼

At the beginning of a recent pistol class, one student, who was not without his own experience, asked his rangemaster if we really can do what we claim we can here at Gunsite in one week—that is to put a totally inexperienced person in complete command of his environment.

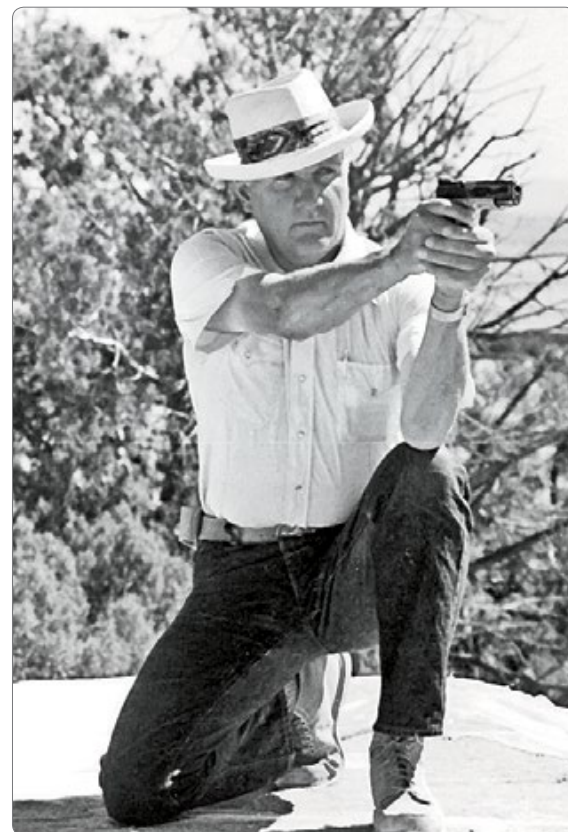


PHOTO COURTESY GUNSITE/GUNSITE.COM

Ed Stock, the rangemaster involved, simply asked this student to wait and ask the question again on Saturday. What a great satisfaction it is to convert the unbeliever!

INTO BATTLE ▼

In that connection we have noted over the years a continuing and annoying tendency on the part of some writers to assume that men are sent into combat to die. Soldiers are not sent into combat to die. They are sent into combat to kill. You are all familiar with George Patton's statement, "I do not want you to go out there and die for your country. I want you to go out there and make the other bastard die for his country."

TRUE DEFENDER ▼

"A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government." —EDWARD ABBEY

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